



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White Mountain Apache Tribe Announces Closures of Public Places, Recreational Areas, Forests, and Curfew

(Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Whiteriver, Ariz., March 23, 2020)

Today, the White Mountain Apache Tribe passed several resolutions closing public places, recreational areas, forests, and imposing a curfew on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to protect the safety and well-being of Tribal members and the community. Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood stated, "The most effective strategies for containment and mitigation of this pandemic are proving to be social distancing and quarantine. Today's resolutions implement reasonable and temporary measures based upon recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control."

While there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, the Tribal Council took preventative actions to close and prohibit access to certain areas, as a way to prevent congregation and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately, the following public places are closed: Memorial Hall; public basketball courts; playgrounds; public horseshoe pits; athletic fields, including school yards; skateparks; volleyball courts; and all other public places where more than ten people can congregate. Additionally, the Tribal Council imposed a curfew for the Fort Apache Indian Reservation between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. Failure to comply with these mandates will result in civil liability.

Additionally, effective immediately, all forest lands on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation are closed to public entry, except for designated areas which remain open to Tribal

members for firewood gathering. Recreational areas are temporarily closed to non-Tribal members, with the exception of Hon-Dah RV Park, which will remain open to serve existing residents. These measures are taken to limit exposure and transmission of COVID-19, and to protect visitors and tourists while preserving the Tribe's limited resources. These closures will remain in effect until the Tribal Council lifts or modifies them.

The Tribal Council also passed a resolution, today, to extend temporary emergency measures that require Tribal employees to continue to work from home, if they are able to do so, until April 14, 2020, or until receiving further direction.

For further information, contact Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood or Vice-Chairman Jerome Kasey III.