



MEMORANDUM

To: Department Directors, Manager, Staff, Tribal Members, Community Members.

Date: March 20, 2020

Re: Emergency Office Closures due to COVID-19

From: Katherine Romero, General Manager

The Nooksack Indian Tribe is currently responding to an outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in China and has become a global pandemic. The Nooksack Tribe has been preparing for this response and has developed a Nooksack Pandemic Response Team to keep abreast of the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the Nooksack Indian Tribal Community.

The virus that caused COVID-19 is spreading easily and sustainably in the state of Washington and the Whatcom County. People have been infected with this virus in all areas, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

On March 7, 2020 the Nooksack Tribal Council passed Resolution #20-30: *Declaring a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19*. In an effort to follow social distancing guidelines and still continue to provide services to our community, the Nooksack Tribe's General Manager initiated an Essential Personnel Workforce Plan for the week of March 16 thru March 20, 2020.

Effective March 23, 2020 all Nooksack Tribal Offices will be locked and closed with the exception of the Nooksack Tribal Health Clinic, Tribal Law Enforcement, and Tribal Gaming Agency. Elder's Lunches will continue to be delivered by the Social Services Department (this program is limited, for more information contact Heidi Davis).

In order to ensure the Nooksack Indian Tribe is able to continue to provide services to the tribal members and community, the following employees will be working remotely. Their contact information is as follows:

1. Katherine Romero, General Manager (360)383-6510
2. Charity Allen, Chief of Staff (360)319-7503
3. Elizabeth Ames, Chief Financial Officer (360)389-7384
4. Heidi Davis, Social Services Director (360)383-5363
5. Darryl Gray, Housing Director (360)812-0044
6. Katrice Rodrigues, Family Services Director (360)305-9633
7. Charles Hurt, Senior Tribal Attorney (360) 739-9851

During this emergency closure, if you need emergency health care please do not hesitate to call 911! The tribal clinic will remain open for urgent care only. Please call ahead of time to discuss your healthcare needs 306-966-2106. The Health Director, Lona Johnson is working on a telemedicine plan that will allow members to seek medical care via video conference. More information about this will be announced as it develops.

Nooksack Tribal Court Hearings will be rescheduled. Any emergency court matters will be addressed by the Tribal Chief Judge and the Tribal Legal Counsel.

If you are in need for Victims of Crime Services (domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse) please call 911 if your needs are urgent and are an emergency. If you need advocate services, please contact Katrice Rodriguez, Family Services Director.

We understand that additional employee circumstances may come up, and we will address those on a case by case basis. Please contact Katherine Romero, General Manager in those circumstances.

It is important that all employees, tribal members and community members understand the seriousness of this global pandemic we are fighting. Social distancing and self-isolation are the only way to save lives! More people are going to get sick and possibly die if people don't start distancing themselves from others and **STAY HOME!** This is not a vacation or a holiday. You are encouraged to wash your hands, sanitize your home, and stay home!

Be safe & be well,



Katherine Romero, MPA
General Manager
Nooksack Indian Tribe