



Nooksack Indian Tribe
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PUBLIC NOTICE:

Nooksack Tribe's Plan for Re-Opening Governmental Offices & Services

History shows that we are resilient people and we will not allow COVID-19 to dampen our spirit or dim our anticipation of the future. The plan to re-open Nooksack is a plan built on a methodical approach to slowly and responsibly lift restrictions that will allow staff to come to work and safely provide services to our Tribal members and community.

As employees are gradually begin returning to work, the Nooksack Pandemic Response Team (NPRT) will be carefully monitoring the situation. Key elements will include increased testing and contact tracing, as well as the preparation of additional space and critical equipment, which will be coordinated and monitored by the Nooksack Pandemic Response Team. Restrictions will be lifted in stages, with consideration given to socioeconomic factors and the risk of transmission. They will be implemented via the General Manager and the NPRT orders and the timing will be dictated by the evidence of transmission.

Nooksack Tribal government hours are Mon-Fri 10 am – 3:00 pm

As employees are gradually returning to work, the NPRT will carefully monitor the daily number of reported cases and other important indicators. They will also monitor to ensure that:

- transmission of the virus is controlled;
- the Nooksack health system has enough capacity to test and treat cases, as well as trace every contact using the COVID-19 data system;
- outbreak risks are minimized in special settings such as health care facilities and elders' units;
- preventive measures are established and in place for tribal offices;
- the risks of importing the virus from outside the tribe can be managed; and
- community is educated, engaged and empowered to adjust to the new realities brought about by COVID-19.

Important Department Information

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE: The entrance area will be limited. Should you need to make a payment (etc.) or need to see a person in person (if it cannot be dealt with by telephone), an employee will come to the front area.

AUTO SHOP: The Auto Shop is still operational; however, the work area is close to the public. All calls will be forwarded the Shop Manager's cell phone. All vehicles will be thoroughly disinfected.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT: Nooksack Head Start classrooms will remain closed for all children. Head Start Staff will work to prepare and distribute packets to families and will contact families via phone or virtually to continue engagement.

EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAM: The Education and Youth Program will remain closed to the children. Staff will be available to prepare program materials, for scholarship, and other information.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: The Health Clinic is open 10:00 am -3:00 pm. Please call ahead of time. Behavioral Health & Chemical Dependency are available for calls and virtual support.

NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES: Available to issue permits by appointment.

NOOKSACK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY: The office will be closed to the public while continuing to conduct business with tenants and community members via telephone. Maintenance staff will practice all safety precautions and protocols, especially when entering homes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: The Nooksack Tribal Police Department has been in full operation through the Tribal closure. The front door to the police department shall remain locked and a notice posted to knock to receive service. If no officer is present at the station, the person is instructed to call "911" and request the officer to respond to their issue.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Elders Program staff will continue providing lunch delivery until fully open and able to open the lunch room building to the Elders. TANF Staff, Energy Assistance Coordinator, and GED instructor available.

TRIBAL COURT: The Courthouse will be open from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm with limited staff. Emergency matters, including in-custody criminal hearings and emergency child custody hearings will continue to be conducted telephonically.

Reminder on Restrictions - Long Term

In order to mitigate risk, long-term measures and restrictions related to travel, gatherings and community building usage will be remain in place for the foreseeable future. Consideration will be given to relaxing restrictions in these facilities but will only be done so once it is safe to do so.

Restrictions- Current Declaration of a Public Health Emergency

The Nooksack Tribal staff and community play an important role in preventing the spread of disease and protecting other members, especially elders and individuals with underlying medical conditions. On March 23, 2020, the Nooksack Tribal Council approved a Shelter In-Place Order.

- All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes as expressed below.
- All travel, including but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit, except essential travel and essential activities is prohibited.
- Individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "essential activities." People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in the residence to the extent possible expect as necessary to seek medical care.

- To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, household pets), to obtain medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.
- To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as food, or any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
- To engage in outdoor activities, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements, such as, walking, hiking, or running (no physical contact activities).
- Individual identified by the Nooksack Tribal Health Officer as having novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) must immediately go into mandatory self-isolation until it is determined they no longer pose a public health threat.
- Individuals identified by the Nooksack Tribal Health Officer as a close contact of a person or persons with COVID-19 must go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 day from the last date of exposure.
- Individuals who are household members or contacts of a person or persons with COVID-19 must immediately go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days and call the Nooksack Tribal Clinic if they become symptomatic.