

**THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES  
OF THE DUCK VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION**

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June 24, 2020

Shoshone Paiute Tribes  
Tribal Employees  
PO Box 219  
Owyhee, NV 89832

RE: COVID-19 Tribal Operations Status – Temporary Change

Dear Tribal Employees:

Today, June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Business Council was notified that an event was held on Friday, June 19, 2020 in Elko, Nevada, where tribal members and/or their family members may have come into contact with an individual who has now tested positive for COVID-19. That individual does not live on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation nor are they a tribal member. However, the concern remains that our people and/or our employees could have possibly been exposed to the virus while attending the same event or subsequently by those family members who attended the event.

Therefore, out of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the employees of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes, the Business Council has now decided to *temporarily close* all tribal facilities/operations and cut back all services, except for the Owyhee Community Health Facility. The closure of tribal facilities/operations begins immediately. And, unless otherwise notified in writing, critical essential services and pertinent staff can expect to return to work on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. During this time, all critical essential employees affected by this closure will be placed on *paid Administrative Leave*, except for those individuals who were pre-approved for annual or sick leave, within the same time period.

Further, as all offices, buildings and departments are to be temporarily closed, all employees on Administrative Leave shall now be under self-quarantine rules, as there is no longer the option to be “on-call” as previously indicated. Additionally, until further notice, no future annual or sick leave is to be authorized for employees, as the risks for anyone going out of town are too significant. (The only exception for allowing leave applies when an employee is placed under medical quarantine. At that point, personal leave can be granted.) Please understand that these efforts are in the best interest and protection of each of you and your families.

The Business Council recognizes that the current threat of possible transmission of the virus is very serious and strongly encourages those who may have been in contact with anyone who attended the event, to fully self-quarantine for the full 14 days for your own safety, as well as, the safety of us all.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that there are **no** confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation at this time. But the Tribes are taking these restrictive steps in order to assess the situation and show that we are all acting in a prudent and precautionary manner. Please understand that this threat, to our lives, to our community, is real and we must all be vigilant in protecting everyone and assist in preventing a widespread incident of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Thomas', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colin Thomas, Chairman  
Shoshone Paiute Tribes