

PRESS RELEASE

BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

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Bishop Paiute Tribe News Roundup

A Recap of Important information on the Tribe's COVID-19 Response

INYO COUNTY, April 10, 2020 – Inyo County's Public Health Officer, Dr. James Richardson and Northern Inyo Healthcare District have reported a 12th positive COVID-19 case in Inyo County, and the first confirmed case outside the greater Bishop area. The patient presented to Northern Inyo Healthcare District's Rural Health Clinic with symptoms associated with COVID-19, and was tested for COVID-19 based on symptoms and other risk-factors.

Inyo County Public Health is working to determine the source of the infection, and conducting a thorough investigation to identify potential exposures and notify contacts. At this time the patient is currently isolated at home. As of April 9, Inyo County has 28 tests pending and 116 negative cases. The turnaround time on test results is approximately 48 hours at this time.

The Tribal Council of the Bishop Paiute Tribe has mandated self-quarantine for Bishop Paiute Tribal Members and Bishop Paiute Tribal Employees following the guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health, and the Action Response Plan, which is available for public view at www.bishoppaiutetribe.com.

Tribal members must continue to practice appropriate preventative measures, such as wearing a cloth or fabric face mask when conducting essential activities outside the home, avoiding contact with sick individuals, wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, practicing social distancing, and adherence to State and County Orders. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, coughing or shortness of breath, and think you may have had contact with a person with COVID-19, call your health care provider before seeking medical care so that appropriate precautions can be taken.

Bishop Paiute Tribal Offices are closed through May 4th. Please keep in mind, this situation could last a little longer. The date of re-opening and returning to work will be announced in the near future as the tribe follows Public Health recommendations.

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We are actively monitoring the pandemic daily and will remain proactive with all mitigatory efforts, so we have scheduled Owens Valley Pest Control (OVPC) to sterilize the entire Administration Building, Tribal Court, and the eastside workout room this weekend Saturday, April 11, 2020.

The Fiscal Office will be accepting payment by mail and by phone. Please call 760-873-3577 from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm Wednesdays and Thursdays and 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Fridays to pay by credit/debit cards or for information on mailing payments.

The CDD will be waiving all monthly charges (house, rent and utility) for the month of April 2020, for the Rental, Mutual Help and Lease Purchase Programs. This decision is due to the many Tribal households who are already experiencing or will be experiencing a loss of household income when the COVID-19 pandemic reaches Inyo County.

The Court building located at 50 Tu Su Lane, Bishop, CA is closed to the public. The Judge and court staff will be working offsite and will remain on call for emergency purposes. All court documents are available at our website. Court filings may continue to be made by mail, fax, or email. A drop box will soon be available and located at the Tribal Court building.

Bishop Indian Head Start and Bishop Indian Education Center will be closed through the remainder of the school year, following the Bishop Unified School District. The Education center will be working remotely to provide tutoring. Head Start will be providing take home breakfast, lunch and a snack for students during school closures or till further notice. Please Pick up Meals before 9am at BIHS.

The Bishop Tribal Elders Program facility will not be serving congregate meals until further notice. Home delivered meals will still be delivered to the current home delivered meal recipients as scheduled. Elders Transportation services are also suspended, until further notice.

Cultural Center will be closed to the public, but will allow beading supply purchases by appointment only. Precautionary measures for purchasing will be enforced - no children allowed in facility; no more than three people in the area; and must sanitize hands and wear mask and gloves while handling beads (both provided).

Family Formation Project will be closed till further notice, but will be working remotely. Keep an eye out for periodic virtual and drive through family events.

The Paiute Palace Casino has been closed in order protect our staff and community. The temporary closure is effective until further notice.

Construction continues at the casino expansion project and the new gas station project. This is in line with Governor Newsom's guidance which states that construction is allowed. All COVID-19 precautions will be followed as outlined by the Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

The Paiute Palace Gas Station has been closed to walk in service. The pumps will continue to be open for credit and debit card transactions. All proper safety and security measures and monitoring remain in place. The closure is expected to continue through April 24, 2020.

Signage has been placed at all tribal locations indicating services available and points of contact. See

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the tribal newsletter for a listing of all departments.

If you live within the Inyo County boundary, and have a question that you need answered – you can call 211 or text 211-211. The public can expect to hear from a live person at the 211 call center; calls will be answered at all hours of the day, every day. The call center staff have constantly-updated local information from Inyo County officials and can get you the latest information whenever you need it.

Updates will be available to the public as they occur on KBPT-LP 96.1fm.

The Bishop Paiute Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe located on its 879 acre Bishop Paiute Reservation in Inyo County, California. The Reservation was formed under Congressional Act 5299, P.L. No. 43 of April 20, 1937. The Tribe is committed to the well being of its people. For more information please contact the Bishop Paiute Tribe at (760) 873-3584.

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