



BISHOP TRIBAL COUNCIL

December 22, 2020

Dear Bishop Paiute Tribal Members:

On behalf of the Bishop Paiute Tribal Council and as the Chairman of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, I am making the following statements to encourage each and every one to do our best to stay safe during the recent COVID19 protocol:

As hard as it seems, please no gatherings with anyone outside of your home during this time. The COVID-19 cases are increasing not only to the outlying areas but also now on our reservation.

Stay home if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19. Example of symptoms: fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

A vaccine is on the way, but in the meantime, we cannot succumb to pandemic fatigue. We all need to hang in there a little longer and continue to take measures to protect ourselves and others.

Remember the 3Ws: Wash your hands, watch your distance, and Wear a Face Covering.

Many people who have COVID-19 don't show symptoms and may spread it without knowing it. It's critical for each of us to wear a mask to protect ourselves and others. While schools, the workplace, transportation and tribal businesses have adopted effective mitigation measures, household gatherings continue to be a driving source for COVID spread.

Many hospitalizations have resulted from household gatherings. So, while young folks may recover quickly, spending time at home with extended family and friends can increase the risk of spread and put high-risk individuals at greater risk of hospitalization.

Our goal is to slow the spread, decrease hospitalizations, and decrease fatalities while keeping the economy open. If we want to go to work, go to school, eat at a restaurant - we cannot let our sense of personal accountability slip.

Holiday parties and household gatherings are at risk of being super spreader events. You can take preventative steps to keep yourself, your family and friends safe.

Be creative and think about what you CAN do to stay safe! Celebrate only with members of your household, eat outside if you can, host a virtual meal, shop online, prepare and deliver a meal for a neighbor.

Know your risk. If hosting a holiday gathering, limit the number of attendees and check the infection rates of the areas from which attendees are traveling from. Use this knowledge to inform you as to whether you should have a holiday gathering.

At gatherings that include people of different households, everyone should always wear a mask that covers both the mouth and nose, except when eating and drinking. Remember that wearing a mask protects you and your loved ones.

Indoor gatherings, especially those with poor ventilation, generally pose more risk than outdoor gatherings.

Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent it is safe and feasible based on the weather – or by placing central air/heating systems on continuous circulation.

If you do get tested, you should self-quarantine/isolate at home pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional. You can visit your state or local health department's website to look for the latest local information on testing.

If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, stay home and monitor your health. Call your doctor if you need advice. Be honest with your family about any potential risks you may have.

If you have to go out on errands, remember to wear your mask at all times while out in the public. Your mask should fit snug and you should still be able to breath comfortably. Make sure others around wear masks. Try to social distance as much as possible. Be mindful of your surroundings.

Thank you, Bishop Paiute tribal members, for following COVID 19 guidelines for keeping you and your family safe. Happy Holidays from the Bishop Paiute Tribal Council.

Sincerely,



Tilford P. Denver
Tribal Chairman