



TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY No. C19-10

SUBJECT: Large Gathering and Events Protocol

I CURRENT SITUATION

COVID-19 is a highly contagious novel coronavirus spread mainly from person to person, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.¹ As of December 4, 2020, there have been 90 cases of Covid-19 identified through the Tule River Indian Health Clinic, Inc. and 1 death, 22,088 cases and 315 deaths in Tulare County, and 1,245,948 cases and 19,324 deaths in the State of California.² Despite many people recovering from the disease, survivors can suffer permanent heart, lung, or neurological damage from Covid-19. The Tule River Indian Reservation must take precautionary steps to protect its people, community, and elders from Covid-19.

II SUMMARY GUIDANCE

The following order is designed to protect the Tule River Indian Reservation, its residents, and its way of life. It begins at 12:00AM on December 5, 2020 and continues until otherwise noted.

The Public Health Authority bans all events or gatherings of more than 10 people. For any event of less than 10 people, attendees must be from no more than 3 different households. Anyone at an event with more than 10 people, or with people from more than 3 households will be considered out of compliance with this order.

Exemptions: All events or gatherings fall under this order, except:

- Activities which are deemed essential by the Tule River Tribal Council
- Activities which have received prior approval from the Tule River Tribal Council

Rationale

Large gatherings of multiple households are a huge risk for the spread of Covid-19. Each additional attendee dramatically adds risk to others and to themselves by being at the event. The PHA staff have seen events on the reservation that have exposed dozens of people to Covid-19.

Due to the recent surge in cases, many nearby jurisdictions are banning events to limit the spread of Covid-19. On November 13, the state of California released tight restrictions³ on private gatherings, including restricting any event to less than 3 different households and banning any indoor event in certain counties with high case rates, such as Tulare County. On November 27, Los Angeles County banned

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Basics>

² <https://tchhsa.org/eng/index.cfm/public-health/covid-19-in-tulare-county/>

³ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-November-2020.aspx>

nearly all private events and issued a stay at home order.⁴ The case rate on the Tule River Reservation is now higher than both the state of California's and the rate in Los Angeles County. To keep the community, our elders and families safe, the PHA believes large events are too dangerous. We order no events until further notice.

Definitions

- a) "Event" or "Gathering" is defined as any activity in the same physical space, whether indoors or outdoors, that congregates a group of the same people for more than 15 minutes.
- b) "Household" is defined as the main location of residence, or if multiple locations, then the residence that the individual stayed at the most in the previous 2 weeks.

III ENFORCEMENT

- 1) Violation of this order may result in civil fines set out in the Tribe's Communicable Disease Ordinance, or any other applicable tribal, state, or federal penalties.
- 1) Pursuant to Tribal Resolution No. FY2020-110, the Public Health Authority requests that Chief of Police of the Tule River Tribal Police enforce this Order to ensure compliance with its provisions. The violation of any provision of this Order may constitute an imminent threat and an immediate menace to public health.
- 2) This Order shall become effective on December 5, 2020 and will continue to be in effect unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Public Health Authority.
- 3) The Public Health Authority must promptly provide copies of this Order as follows: (1) by posting on the Tule River Indian Health Center Inc., website (www.trihci.org/covid-19) and all of the clinic's social media sites (2) by posting at the Tule River Tribal Council Administration Building and requesting that the Tribe distribute to all other tribal entities, departments, and organizations for immediate posting, and (3) by providing a copy to any member of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public requesting a copy.
- 4) If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

Signature: 
Tribal Public Health Officer

Date: December 4, 2020

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-california/los-angeles-county-to-impose-new-covid-19-restrictions-on-social-gatherings-idUSKBN28800F>