
(Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Whiteriver, Ariz. December 3, 2020)

Today, in response to an increase of 40 new COVID-19 cases over a three day period, the White Mountain Apache Tribe (the Tribe) activated its COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place Activation system by implementing a 72-hour lockdown.

The Lockdown will begin on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. and continue throughout the weekend until Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. During the lockdown, all residents of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) are required to stay home within their residence, at all times and take every possible precaution to limit social interactions which may transmit COVID-19. Individuals may leave their homes or places of residence only in the following circumstance: (1) Traveling to or from work with proof of employment; and (2) obtaining or seeking medical care.

All Tribal departments that have been deemed ‘essential’ during this time will continue to operate without interruption. These include the departments that are open over the weekend per their normal operations.

All precautionary measures mandated by the Tribe since March remain in place, including, but not limited to, the following: the requirement that masks be worn at all times in public, a curfew between 10:00 P.M and 5:00 A.M., restrictions to churches gatherings/traditional ceremonies, funeral and burial restrictions.

The White Mountain Apache Tribal Council continues to advise the public to take every precautionary measure, including the following:

- Avoiding contact with people who are sick;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth;
- Washing hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol, especially:
  - After using any bathroom;
  - Before eating; and
  - After coughing, sneezing, wiping eyes or mouth, or blowing nose;
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- Maintaining social distancing;
- Stay home when sick, unless seeking medical attention; and
• Covering coughs or sneezes.

For more information, contact Chairwoman Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, LeAnn Mallow or Brenda Paxson at (928) 338-1704, EOC Headquarters.

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