UPDATE March 15, 2020 / 10:00 PM

Lapwai and Kamiah Mamá’y’asnim Hitéemenwees- Early Childhood Development Program
& The Boys & Girls Club of the Nez Perce Tribe will be CLOSED starting Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice

Although there aren’t any confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in our immediate area, this is a precautionary measure to ensure the health and welfare of our staff, children, and community.

All staff are requested to report to work unless otherwise prearranged

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time

UPDATE March 15, 2020 / 9:40 PM

Nimiipuu Health- Public Health Incident Command

Risks for worsening or progression of COVID-19 illness include:
Older age patients appear to have the greatest risk of complications and mortality (death)

- 50-59-year-old have a 1.3% mortality rate
- 60-69-year-old have a 3.6% mortality rate
- 70-79-year-old have an 8% mortality rate
- 80-year-olds and above have 14.8% mortality rate

Underlying chronic medical conditions such as:
- lung disease
- heart failure
- cancer
- cerebrovascular disease (stroke)
- renal (kidney) disease
- liver disease
- diabetes
- immunocompromising conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, mixed connective tissue disorder and scleroderma
- pregnancy

Studies are showing that approximately 20% of infected patients require hospitalization, but we are mainly collecting data on the “sickest of the sick” which means that 20% may be higher than we can expect

Best prevention measures:
- Stay away from sick people
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough and sneezes with tissue, throw tissues into the trash
• Clean frequently touch surfaces (doorknobs, countertops, banisters) with a common household cleaning spray or wipe
• Hand washing with soap and water for 20-40 seconds or alcohol (60%) based hand sanitizers (must air-dry completely to be effective)
• The viruses is spread via respiratory droplets from nose and mouth of infected people
• Droplets can land on surfaces
• Other people can touch the surfaces and infect themselves by touching their face, eyes, nose or mouth
• Healthy people in the general public have no benefit from wearing masks
• Infection control for healthcare workers to allow them to be able to continue to provide needed care

UPDATE March 15, 2020 / 9:30 PM

Nimiipuu Health- Public Health Incident Command
Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:
• Fever (83-98%) - a fever is a temperature greater than 100.4 Fahrenheit
• Cough (46-82%)
• Shortness of breath (31%)
AVERAGE onset of illness which occurs approximately 6-9 DAYS AFTER exposure
Treatment is primarily symptomatic:
• A fever should be treated with antipyretics (fever lowering agents) such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen
• Hydration is extremely important
• Antiviral medications are currently under investigation, but not currently recommended or available

***Close monitoring of signs and symptoms over the second week of illness may be necessary to monitor for worsening or progression of illness

Local Data for COVID-19:
Idaho:
• Confirmed cases: 5
• Fatal cases: 0
• Recovered cases: 0
Washington:
• Confirmed cases: 769
• Fatal: 42
• Recovered: 1 (this result should make us question the accuracy of the data with only 1 recovered; it may not be being collected at this time)
Oregon:
• Confirmed cases: 39
• Fatal cases: 1
• Recovered cases: 0
Montana:
• Confirmed cases: 6
• Fatal cases: 0
• Recovered cases: 0
UPDATE March 15, 2020 / 4:45 PM

Lapwai School District Closure Update

Due to the recent closure of the Lewiston and Clarkston School Districts and concerns regarding students returning from recent travel, the Lapwai School District has determined it necessary to close as a health and safety precaution tomorrow, Monday, March 16th until otherwise notified. This decision was incredibly difficult, yet determined in the best interest our students, staff and families. School-based sports and all other extracurricular activities will also be suspended Monday until otherwise notified.

The closure will allow for continued deep cleaning and instructional planning should the closure be extended. This time will also be utilized to develop a plan with food service to resume meals during closures. Details on school meals will follow after planning occurs Monday.

Again, school is canceled for students tomorrow, Monday, March 16th until otherwise notified.

All district staff are requested to report to work tomorrow unless they request sick leave. Please see your supervisor with questions.

On behalf of the Lapwai School District, thank you for your patience, support and understanding.

UPDATE March 13, 2020 / 4:45 PM

Nez Perce Tribe and Nimipuu Health Continue Proactive Measures Against Coronavirus

As the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continues to be a concern throughout the world, Nimipuu Health (NMPH) in correlation with the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe), and all entities of the Tribe, are taking proactive and preventative measures. Although there have not been any confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Nez Perce reservation, every necessary precaution is being taken at this time to limit the chance of exposure and spread.

On March 10, 2020, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee passed a resolution (see NPT Resolution NP20-215) directing measures and actions that are to be taken at this time. These actions included designating Dr. R. Kim Hartwig as the Incident Commander who will utilize the Nimipuu Health Incident Command Team and the TERPT. The resolution provided direction for department executives to manage staff concerns. It also laid out restrictions for non-essential travel, possible cancellation or postponement of events, sanitation protocols, resource assistance for Tribal members, continued preparation, and regular communication for updates. The Tribe will continue to monitor the situation and update precautions as necessary.

“No one is immune to COVID-19, there is potential risk for anyone. Some individuals are at higher risk based on pre-existing conditions,” explained Dr. Hartwig, NMPH Medical Director. “Everyone should be taking precautions, healthy or not, as they could potentially be exposing someone whose immune system may be unable to recover.”
At this time Dr. Hartwig recommends that individuals practice proper hand-washing hygiene, stay home if they are not feeling well, and to cover coughs and sneezes appropriately. Although the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low in our community, it is very important that preventative measure continue.

“It is a privilege to care for our community. Knowing that, our highest priority is to be proactive in our efforts to manage health concerns, such as COVID-19,” said Dr. Hartwig.

For more information on COVID-19, we encourage you to visit The Center for Disease Control’s website at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/

UPDATE March 13, 2020 / 12:40 PM

Lapwai school district health and safety updates

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is of the highest priority for the Lapwai School District. Our proactive and preventive approach for the remainder of the school year and until further notice includes:

1. Closing our facilities for non-district use including tournaments
2. Canceling field trips to limit exposure
3. Limiting school athletic participation to outdoor events with safety precautions

Special events in district facilities create additional duties for our limited maintenance and custodial staff. Their time and attention need to be prioritized toward sanitizing our schools. The Center for Disease Control also recommends postponing large meetings and gatherings. The Idaho Department Health and Welfare is discouraging indoor events of 250 or more. They also advise against events drawing participants from areas with confirmed community spread of the COVID-19 disease.

Schools Will Continue to Reinforce the Following:

1. Review appropriate handwashing techniques with students followed by provided hand sanitizer
2. Reinforce covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue, washing hands afterward
3. Discourage touching eyes, nose and mouth
4. Discourage the sharing of food and drinks
5. All instructional spaces will be provided anti-bacterial wipes
6. Maintenance will clean high-touch surfaces daily with highly-effective, anti-bacterial products

Additional hand sanitizing dispensers have also been installed in each school. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

UPDATE March 13, 2020 / 11:30 AM

Nez Perce Tribal Senior Citizens - Congregate Meal Participants

At this time social distancing is important to stay healthy.
The Dining Hall will **NOT** be open for sit down meals.
Dine-in will only be available for pick up / to go.
Homebound meals will continue as regular until further notice.

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:
Jackie McArthur at 208-843-2463 or Mary Tallbull at 208-935-3411

**UPDATE March 12, 2020 / 4:30 PM**

In our continued efforts to remain proactive against COVID-19 (Coronavirus) spread, the Nez Perce Tribe will continue to enforce precautionary measures.

The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee has formally decided to suspend **ALL** travel for **ALL** Nez Perce Tribe entities, boards, and commissions as of today, March 12, 2020 through April 10th, 2020

Extension of the travel suspension may be considered at a later date.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

**UPDATE March 5, 2020 / 8:30 AM**

Nimiipuu Health and the Nez Perce Tribe recognize the privilege it is to care for our community. We would like to be proactive, as opposed to reactive, with respect to the prevention and spread of infectious diseases. We have become aware of members of our community with possible exposures to the COVID19 (Coronavirus) at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino this past weekend. There has been a presumptive positive case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in the state of Oregon and is pending confirmation by the CDC. The Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center Public Health Incident Command, with local, state and federal health agencies has determined that the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 at Wildhorse Resort and Casino is minimal.

We have not had a confirmed case in Idaho, however, we would like to communicate the potentially exposed community members have been recommended to undergo self-isolation by the Nez Perce Tribe Incident Command and Tribal leadership. This decision was made after careful consideration of the health status of our community members and our commitment to protect those we serve. This recommendation is **PRECAUTIONARY**. We have several members of our community with impaired immune systems for various reasons, such autoimmune conditions, chronic diseases such as COPD, diabetes and chronic kidney disease, or cancer with current systemic immune suppressant treatments. It is with these patients in mind that we have chosen to be aggressive in protecting our community and are attempting to limit any potential transmission of this illness.

The goal of our facility is several fold:
- Reduce morbidity (disease) and mortality (death)
- Minimize disease transmission
- Protect healthcare personnel
- Preserve healthcare functioning
We would ask that ANY RESPIRATORY ILLNESS call Nimipuu Health before leaving home so staff can be prepared for your arrival. We will have special handling of patients with respiratory illnesses as a precaution.

Prevention is our greatest tool at this time. To help prevent spread of the COVID-19, flu and other viruses please:

- Wash your hands often with soap & water according to the WHO recommendations for at least 40-60 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer if you don’t have soap and water available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home while you are sick
- Avoid close contact with others by not attending large events
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Dispose this tissue into a waste receptacle and wash your hands immediately

Let us all work together within this wonderful community to protect each as we prepare for the arrival of this novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

Please contact Nimipuu Health at 208.843.2271 with questions or concerns.