

May 7, 2020 / 9:29 AM**COVID-19 Update for Nimiipuu Health and the Nez Perce Tribe**

Lapwai, Idaho- On May 6, 2020, Nimiipuu Health recorded no new positive cases of the COVID-19 virus. On May 5 fourteen individuals were tested and out of those tests, four returned positive. These new results bring the total number of positive COVID-19 cases for the Nez Perce Reservation to 16 positive COVID-19 cases out of 53 tested. This daily testing is being done pursuant to Centers for Disease Control testing protocols. The North Idaho Public Health District (District) is conducting contact tracing for each of these cases. Nimiipuu Health is working closely with the District, providing all necessary data and ensuring proper protocols are being followed.

“We are continuing to test, and are fortunate to have the capability to receive same-day results. We are doing all we can at this time to ensure the safety of everyone. We are learning more each day about the impacts this virus is having on our community,” stated Nimiipuu Health Medical Director, Kim Hartwig, MD.

Although the contract tracing is ongoing with each of these positive results, there is still no implication of community spread at this time. Nimiipuu Health has performed extensive testing for multiple individuals of a single household, which is not mandatory, but has been done as a precautionary measure. Due to the closeness of the community and the prevalence of asymptomatic cases, it was deemed a priority to test all individuals that were possibly exposed to a positive individual.

“It has been my oath from day one to help protect our people. It was never a matter of if it would come here, but a matter of when. It is important to remember that this virus does not discriminate. Anyone is susceptible to contracting the virus. There is no individual, family, organization, or business that is at fault for the virus being in our community. We need to continue supporting one another and caring for each other. Everyone can do this by maintaining social distancing with anyone outside your immediate household, washing your hands, wearing a mask if you must go out in public, and staying home as much as possible,” concluded Dr. Hartwig.

With the uptick in positive cases, Nimiipuu Health has asked the public to be mindful of the subtle but devastating ways that COVID-19 can spread in a community. A recent article in the Lewiston Tribune explained that an increase in positive COVID-19 cases could be traced back to children playing together. Experts noted that COVID-19 asymptomatic children can be a significant transmission vector of the illness in a community. This emphasizes the continuing importance of abiding by the Nez Perce Tribe’s ‘Stay At Home’ order and social distancing.

May 2, 2020 / 6:59 PM**Nimiipuu Health Confirms Additional Positive COVID-19 Tests**

Lapwai, Idaho- On May 2, 2020 the Nimiipuu Health clinic in Lapwai conducted additional testing as a result of the two positive cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) that were confirmed on Friday, May 1, 2020. While performing 28 tests, the clinic confirmed ten additional positive tests. There are now a total of 12 positive cases on the Nez Perce Reservation.

It is believed that all positive cases of COVID-19 are related, and at this time there is no implication of community spread of the COVID-19 virus. Nimiipuu Health staff have developed testing protocols and

will be testing only those individuals that meet the recommended level of priority. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, only individuals with symptoms will be tested.

“There are circles of exposure. If you think of a pebble dropping into a pond, the pebble creates a series of waves and the wave ring closest to the pebble is the highest risk of people whom we are testing. If one of those people in the first ring tests positive, each of them create their own ring of contacts. You now have the appearance of a pond with sprinkling rain falling onto it,” stated Nimiipuu Health Medical Director, Dr. R. Kim Hartwig.

Patients needing to be seen at Nimiipuu Health will be required to wear a mask. Nimiipuu Health will continue to ask individuals to call (208)843-2271 prior to coming in with COVID-19 like symptoms, so staff can adequately prepare.

Nimiipuu Health will be enacting additional practices and making adjustments for how patients in need of testing, or other medical care, will be processed. All routine appointments for the week of May 4 – May 8, have been postponed.

“This batch of testing illustrates the importance of social distancing during this time. Please be diligent with hand washing, covering your cough and sneeze, wearing a mask when you are out in public and remaining home when you are ill. We need to remain cohesive and strong. Nimiipuu Health is providing an excellent level of care,” Dr. Hartwig concluded.

May 1, 2020 / 11:55 PM

Nimiipuu Health Reports Two Positive COVID-19 Cases

Lapwai, Idaho- On May 1, 2020, two patients at Nimiipuu Health, the tribal clinic on the Nez Perce Reservation, tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To date, Nimiipuu Health has tested 12 individuals. These are the first two confirmed positive cases.

The individuals are Nez Perce tribal members and of the same family. Both were sent home to self-isolate. One of the individuals is an employee of the Nez Perce Tribe, who has been working from home since March 17, 2020 pursuant to a tribal wide Stay-At-Home order.

A contact tracing process for the positive cases is being conducted by the North Idaho Health District. The health district will be notifying those persons who may have come in contact with the individuals. Nimiipuu Health is also assisting with preliminary contact tracing and has started testing other individuals of the same household for COVID-19. Nimiipuu Health will be working this Saturday to provide additional testing for those who may have come in contact with the positive individuals.

If you have been in contact, or believe you may have been in contact, with an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 call Nimiipuu Health (208) 843-2271. It is important for individuals to provide self-disclosure to ensure the safety of themselves and others.

The Nez Perce Tribe will continue to take precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the Nez Perce Reservation and strongly encourages everybody to follow the recommended guidelines for social distancing and efficient hygiene recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Individuals are encouraged to refrain from socializing with anyone outside their immediate household. Use of masks, when required to be out in public, are also encouraged.

The Nez Perce Tribe Stay-At-Home order is still in effect on the Nez Perce Reservation and we would like to encourage the community to stay vigilant and continue to stay home during this time.

April 3, 2020 / 5:17 PM

An Update to the Nez Perce Tribe's COVID-19 Response

Lapwai, Idaho- Following the Nez Perce Tribe's (Tribe) declaration of a Public Health Emergency on March 18, 2020, it continues to run its Emergency Operations Command (EOC) center under the direction of Incident Commander Marty Antone, Nez Perce Tribal Police Department (NPTPD) Captain. The EOC is currently operating at a response level higher than currently needed to ensure the Tribe is prepared for any potential increase in the spread of COVID-19 in our area.

"In law enforcement we are always preparing for a 'worst-case scenario', we are doing the same with our emergency operations. We want to ensure that no matter what happens, we have the resources in place to manage any crisis to the best of our ability," said Incident Commander Antone.

The EOC team meets daily to debrief, discuss and address requests. The EOC is also working collaboratively with Nimiipuu Health, ensuring that emergency operations are assisting the clinic in meeting the demands imposed on it by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the request of the EOC, the Tribe issued a Stay At Home Order (Order) on March 27, 2020 in response to cases of COVID-19 being confirmed in this region. Idaho issued a similar Stay At Home Order. The Tribe's Order does contain some additional precautionary measures that were not imposed by Idaho. The Tribe's Order implements a curfew between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., requires adult supervision of children while out in public spaces, and imposes restrictions on cultural gatherings. These measures are being imposed throughout the Nez Perce Reservation.

The Order will be implemented through education and encouragement. While the Order is in effect, NPTPD Officers will work collaboratively with other law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of everyone. Community policing, which has always been a priority of the NPTPD, will be the foundation of this enforcement effort as well.

Despite the public health emergency, the Tribe is still open and operating to provide essential services to the public. All programs are operating under health and safety guidelines, such as social distancing, to protect staff; some with amendments to hours and service availability. Some essential staff are still working out of offices, those that can work from home are being encouraged to do so and staff that are not able to work at the office or at home are being placed on leave for the time being. The Tribe is also working diligently on ways to directly provide for the needs of those who are the most vulnerable to COVID-19, such as elders and individuals with underlying health conditions.

"We will continue to march forward and do our best to protect the people in our communities," concluded Incident Commander Antone.

The Tribe will be opening their COVID Response Distribution Call Center for Nez Perce families on and near the Nez Perce Reservation. The Response Distribution will be providing food and other supplies. The Call Center will be open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until further notice. (Call

Center Phone Numbers: (208) 746- 4130, (208) 790- 1436, (208) 790- 1437, (208) 790- 1438, (208) 790- 1439)

For all the latest updates, news and health guidance related to COVID-19 from the Nez Perce Tribe, please visit nezperce.org, follow the Nez Perce Tribe on Facebook, or tune in to KIYE on 88.7 Kamiah or 105.5 Lapwai.

March 27, 2020 / 9:50 AM

Nez Perce Tribe Issues ‘Stay At Home’ Order for Nez Perce Reservation

Lapwai, Idaho- Based on several confirmed cases of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in our region, the Nez Perce Tribe has elected to enact a Stay-At-Home Order for the Nez Perce Reservation effective immediately until further notice.

“At this time, we find it in the best interest of our people to further emphasize social distancing. There is so much we don’t know about this virus, yet we do know that social distancing is effective,” stated Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee Chairman, Shannon Wheeler.

Under the Stay-At-Home Order residents are required to stay home to the maximum extent possible. Trips outside of the home should be limited to only those of necessity, such as getting essential supplies. This does not mean individuals cannot go outdoors, but social distancing must be maintained and publicly used equipment must be avoided.

Children should not be out in the public vicinity unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older at any time. A curfew will be implemented for everyone, on the Nez Perce Reservation, between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This curfew will be waived for those working at their work sites or those traveling by automobile through the area.

Social distancing is deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. This includes distancing from any individual outside of the immediate household. All non-essential cultural, social and recreational gatherings of individuals will be prohibited, regardless of size. Gatherings will include, but are not limited to, parties, sporting games, weddings, sweat lodge gatherings, etc. Gatherings of members of the same household will be permitted.

Nez Perce Tribal Police Officers will be continuing their regular community policing patrols. Officers will be providing education to community members about the order and encouraging the practice of social distancing. If children under the age of 18 are found in the public vicinity without adult supervision, they will be escorted home.

“We as a community need to come together right now. This order is not to protect one person, but rather to protect everyone; protecting you from contracting the virus, but also ensuring you won’t unknowingly infect someone else. We have just over 3,500 enrolled Tribal members, even just one loss is detrimental,” said Chairman Wheeler. “To overcome this pandemic, we need everyone. Help us help everyone; stay home.”

If you are experiencing an emergency, call 911. NPTPD can be reached through Whitcom dispatch by calling (208)843-5214 for Lapwai and (208)935-7777 for Kamiah. If you are in need of medical

assistance, call Nimiipuu Health at (208) 843-2271. If you are in need of any other assistance call (208)621-4600.

March 24, 2020 / 4:00 PM

Nimiipuu Health Update

Please be aware that we do NOT have a confirmed COVID-19 case on the Nez Perce Reservation. We have tested two (2) patients to date. The first specimen returned as negative and the second specimen is still pending. We are currently taking the necessary precautions to avoid spread of COVID-19 in our region. Nimiipuu Health staff will be certain to communicate any results that require a greater response.

It is our privilege to care for you and our community. Please be assured that our greatest concern is maintaining your safety. Let us all continue to work together to encourage social distancing, diligent hand washing and remaining home if ill. These protocols are all effective in reducing the hazard of spreading this unprecedented health risk for our community.

R. Kim Hartwig, MD
Medical Director
Nimiipuu Health

March 24, 2020 / 11:00 AM

The Non-Partisan NPTEC Primary Elections Scheduled April 4, 2020 POSTPONED

In an effort to follow social distancing protocols and avoid any possible spread of COVID-19 we will be postponing the NPTEC Primary Elections. We anticipate rescheduling the Primary Election for Saturday, May 2, 2020 with the General Election to follow on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Please note that this is subject to change. Notice will be sent out in the event of any changes.

Will be providing additional information later, regarding the health and safety protocols that will be implemented during the voting process.

Thank you for your understanding.

For questions, please contact Melissa Guzman, Election Judge
(208)621-3828 melissag@nezperce.org

March 23, 2020 / 9:00 AM

Nimiipuu Fund Coronavirus COVID-19 Notice:

Due to the current Public Health Emergency declared by the Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe to align with health professionals and CDC-mandated social distancing and quarantine, the NCDF Board of Directors approved closing our physical office, beginning March 20, 2020 and continuing until further notice. We are

still providing assistance by email or through our online system for current loans, applications for new loans, and making appointments for clients.

Nimiipuu Fund will continue to monitor this fluid situation and provide updates through email, our website and social media posts.

Nimiipuu Fund loans and concerns with payment. We recommend that you notify our office if you need assistance with payment options for your loan with employer payroll deduction or bank transfer form. If you need relief on your loan at this time, we can find ways to restructure your loan or delay/suspend payments, please contact us. Note that no contact and missed payments may impact your credit with our regular credit reporting process. Options for restructure or forbearance are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

We are still processing new loan applications for our consumer and small business loans, information on our loan options to help you and your small business at this time can be found at www.nimiipuufund.org and complete the “contact us” access to our online system.

Nimiipuu Fund staff will continue to work remotely to provide services and loans with regular coordination calls and tasks to continue operations.

Staff are available and can be reached at jonelle@nimiipuufund.org or george@nimiipuufund.org. You can also call our office at 208-621-3729.

Business Resources:

Idaho SBDC at North Central Idaho – LCSC

SBDC is working remotely and offering free online business consultation and planning courses. You may contact Barbara Leachman, Executive Director at 208-792-2465 or you can email baleachman@lcsc.edu.

Nimiipuu Fund will provide scholarships to individuals or business owners who want to participate in their upcoming virtual workshops. You must contact our office if you are interested as class size is limited.

AVAILABLE NOW

Webinar - Business Base Camp – Where Ideas Get Started

FREE and available online, Instructor: Kim Sherman-Labrum

-Business Base Camp is a two-hour interactive workshop aimed at discovering the feasibility of your business idea. The first section covers the topics every new business must know. The second half covers using the Business Model Canvas to test the feasibility of your idea. [VIEW HERE](#)

Speaker(s): Kim Sherman-Labrum

Mar 27

Webinar - Anywhere – Write Your Business Plan

Now

9:00 am – 11:30 am, \$25, Instructor: Barbara Leachman

-Want a business plan but can't seem to get it done? Take out your pen or use a laptop NOW. This workshop is the time to make it happen! Your plan could help you with starting, buying, selling, growing, or raising capital. A written business plan makes you more likely to be successful with your endeavors. We have a Ten-Step process that will get you from your goals to your next action steps. Each of the ten steps will be explained and time will be provided for you to write, ask questions, and get feedback. [Register online.](#)

April 3

Webinar - Anywhere – Create a Business Website Online NOW

9:00 am – 11:30 am, \$25, Instructor: Barbara Leachman

-From your first header to Calls For Action, bring your content or follow along as we create a free Google website. Then, get your business on the map, including photos and key phrases NOW. *Bring your Gmail password.* [Register online.](#)

May 1

Webinar - Anywhere – 30 Steps to Evaluate and Improve Your Website Action

9:00 am – 11:30 am, \$25, Instructor: Barbara Leachman

- Take a few minutes every morning, to optimize your website for search engines and customers. For example: Step #21 – Customize menu titles, #3 – Claim directory sites. [Register online](#)

IDRS ACORN Project

One of our partners in business development. IDRS ACORN and Nimiipuu Fund are working on providing virtual training in Native Artist development and Business Planning. You can find more information on IDRS at <https://www.nativebiz.org/>

Economic Injury Federal Disaster Assistance

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance Loan at <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>

Disaster Loan Assistance Available: Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) – Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

Credit Requirements: • Credit History – Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA. • Repayment – Applicants must show the ability to repay the loan. • Collateral – Collateral is required for all EIDL loans over \$25,000. SBA takes real estate as collateral when it is available. SBA will not decline a loan for lack of collateral, but SBA will require the borrower to pledge collateral that is available.

Coronavirus Relief Bill

The US Government passed a relief bill aimed at, among other things, helping small businesses across the US pay for employee sick leave. Here's a summary [Legislation Passed by the US Gov't](#) and how it might affect your business.

Department of Labor:

Employees can file for Unemployment Insurance Benefits if their hours are reduced or their work place has closed due to Covid-19. Filing for benefits can be done online at <https://www.labor.idaho.gov/dnn/>.

We highly recommend applicants use a desktop computer and not a phone or tablet. The software is not mobile optimized. Applicants can file in office on lobby computers.

For questions about unemployment,

- **Claimants can call 208-332-8942**

- **Employers can call 208-947-1055**

Please expect longer than usual hold times to reach a Claims Specialist.

Nez Perce Tribe and Nimiipuu Health Response Team

Information on the Nez Perce Tribe and Nimiipuu Health response to COVID-19 can be found through the link below. Here you can find the latest information, resources and data.

<https://nimiipuu-coronavirus-response-nptgisonline.hub.arcgis.com/>

UPDATE March 18, 2020 / 4:00 PM

The Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee Chairman, Shannon Wheeler to address COVID-19 concerns. Please tune into the Nez Perce Tribe's Facebook Page @4 PM. (Note: Video will also be posted on <http://www.nezperce.org> shortly after.)

UPDATE March 18, 2020 / 4:00 PM

Temporary Closure – Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises

With The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) recently having issued a resolution declaring a state of public health emergency on the Nez Perce Reservation, consistent with efforts around the globe to take preventative measures to avert the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), The Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises remains committed to making efforts to protect the health and safety of our valuable patrons and team members.

Effective today, March 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. the Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises will be temporarily closed until April 4, 2020 or until further notice.

During these unprecedented times in our Country, it is important that we continue to support each other with the critical safety precautions necessary. During this time of uncertainties and contagious viruses, we greatly appreciate your understanding and loyalty.

Closures/temporary time changes are as follows:

- Clearwater River Casino & Lodge closed- effective March 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. until April 4, 2020 or until further notice. This includes the hotel, **casino** floor, bingo, cash cage, Players Club, Gift Shop, Qeqiit Restaurant and Yawwinma Café.
- It'se-Ye-Ye **Casino** closed- effective March 18, 2020 11:59 p.m. until April 4, 2020 or until further notice. This includes the **casino** floor, café and Player's Club.
- Nez Perce Express gas station and convenience store will remain open Sun-Sat from 6am – 9pm
- Camas Express gas station and convenience store will remain open Sun-Sat 8am – 6pm
- Clarkston Golf and Country Club will remain open Sun-Sat 6:30am-8:30pm with the clubhouse closed until further notice.

The Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises cares deeply about its guests, team members and our community. As conditions are rapidly changing in these uncertain times, we believe that it is incumbent upon all of us to take responsibility for social distancing to protect the health and safety of our community.

Thank you,
Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises Management Team

UPDATE March 18, 2020 / 2:00 PM

The **ERWM Air Quality Program** is committed to the safety of our staff and community. To help lessen the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our office will be minimally staffed and closed to in-person visits until further notice. However, we will continue to post daily burn decisions and respond to messages in a timely manner. All burn permit and burn approval requirements will continue to be in effect.

If you need immediate assistance with a burn permit, you may call 208-791-9642 or email airquality@nezperce.org during regular work hours.

UPDATE March 18, 2020 / 1:45 PM

In response to the coronavirus pandemic that has left many people facing financial uncertainty, the **Nez Perce Tribe's Utility Program will temporarily suspend all collection activity and water shut-offs for unpaid utilities bills.** If you do have a past due balance, please make the effort to pay by credit card at the Tribal Finance Department (208-621-3838) or call 208-621-3899 to make payment arrangements. We remain committed to our obligation to provide safe and reliable service to our customers and will ensure that this critical function is our focus at this time.

Any question or concerns please call 208-621-3899

Thank you,

Nez Perce Tribal Utility Board

UPDATE March 18, 2020 / 12:30 PM

Nez Perce Tribe Declares State of Public Health Emergency on Reservation

Lapwai, Idaho- The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) has issued a resolution declaring a state of public health emergency on the Nez Perce Reservation due to the occurrence and imminent threat of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). An incident command team has been mobilized to keep abreast of the latest information and data related to COVID-19. Incident Command along with the Tribal Emergency Response Planning Team (TERPT) will coordinate to establish resources, supplies, and response protocols. "Although there have not been any confirmed cases on the Nez Perce Reservation, the Tribe feels this is a necessary precaution to aid in preventing the spread of COVID-19," stated Shannon Wheeler, Chairman of the Nez

Perce Tribal Executive Committee.

NEZ PERCE TRIBE COVID-19 UPDATES

Additional measures have been put in place that correlate with this decision. The Tribe has cut down on the amount of staff in the work place by placing non-essential employees on administrative leave and is using social distancing as a response tool. Additionally, vulnerable high risk populations have been placed on administrative leave. This includes employees that are 60 years of age and above, people with heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, hypertension, and other respiratory conditions. As an additional precaution, pregnant women and/or nursing mothers are also being placed on administrative leave. Essential employees that can telecommute are being encouraged to work from home. However, the Tribe will continue to remain open with limited staff and public access. "Social distancing is the only proven way to slow the spread of the Virus, knowing that we will continue to err on the side of caution in an effort to protect the wellbeing of our staff, tribal members, and community," said Chairman Wheeler.

These actions follow a travel suspension placed on March 12 for all non-essential travel. Also a Resolution implementing safety protocols for sanitizing and proper hygiene in the work place. These will also continue in conjunction with the minimization of staff.

"We are all feeling the same emotions right now but we need to remain calm at this time. Risks remain low, but once again we want to err on the side of caution. Together we will get through this," concluded Chairman Wheeler.

UPDATE March 18, 2020 / 12:00 PM

ATTENTION NEZ PERCE TRIBAL MEMBERS

The Nez Perce Tribe will be issuing an emergency economic support payment no later than March 31, 2020 to aid in this time of need. Payments will be made to enrolled Nez Perce Tribal members, 18+ (as of March 17, 2020)

If you have not updated your bank information or address recently, you must contact the Tribe to make any changes no later than March 23, 2020 by 4:00 p.m. (PST). We encourage you to update your contact information regularly.

Email: accountspayable@nezperce.org

Phone: Trish Wicks(208)621-3840 or Starr Wallace(208)621-3839 or Rosanna Greene (208)621-3678 or Rachel Edwards (208)621-3685

We are encouraging social distancing at this time and would request people to contact us by email or phone rather than coming in person.

wic'éey wáaq'is (stay well)

UPDATE March 17, 2020 / 3:30 PM

Cancellation of upcoming events at the Clearwater River Casino

NEZ PERCE TRIBE COVID-19 UPDATES

From the early beginnings of the Clearwater River Casino and the Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises, we have continuously held the health and safety of our valued customers and team members in the highest priority. With the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) being a major concern throughout the world we are taking extra preventative measures to ensure we are doing all that we can to limit the risks and vulnerability of our guests and team members.

We regret to announce that the following upcoming events, set to be held here at the Clearwater River Casino, have been cancelled until further notice:

- Spring Fever Machine Tournament March 21st,
- Ludacris April 4th,
- Clearwater Combat MMA April 18th and
- Hell's Belles May 9th.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We appreciate your continued support and loyalty to the Clearwater River Casino, Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises and the health and wellbeing of our community.

Information regarding the refund process starting this Thursday, March 19 is as follows:

- If you purchased online via Ticketwest.com your money will automatically be added back onto the card you paid with
- If you purchased through our box office with a debit or credit card, bring your tickets and/or receipt into our facility for a cash only refund
- If you purchased through a third party, you will have to work with them directly
-

Visit <https://crcasino.com/> for more information

UPDATE March 15, 2020 / 10:00 PM

Lapwai and Kamiah Mamáy'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

Nimiiipuu 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

NEZ PERCE TRIBE COVID-19 UPDATES

- 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

Nimiiipuu 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:

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- 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 Nimiipuu Health Continue Proactive Measures Against Coronavirus

As the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continues to be a concern throughout the world, Nimiipuu 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 Nimiipuu 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

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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

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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 as 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 Nimiipuu 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 Nimiipuu Health at 208.843.2271 with questions or concerns.