



****NOTICE****

Companion to Public Safety Order No. 2
Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee
March 24, 2020

In an effort to stop of the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 in our community, all longhouses and churches within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments are directed to stop hosting spiritual ceremonial gatherings and other services until further notice. Funerals are exempt from this restriction if longhouse and church leaders implement the following safety measures:

1. Longhouse and church leaders may conduct funeral services as they were instructed when given this responsibility by their elders, but must account for attendee safety, health, and wellbeing.
2. Longhouse and church leaders must use best judgment in deciding whether viewing, giving dirt, dressing, give away, crying ceremonies, and shaking of hands are necessary during this public health crisis. Undue additions to the ceremonies and other requests should be avoided.
3. Funeral participation should be limited to immediate family. Longhouse and church leaders must track in writing the names of all funeral attendees and maintain those records until further notice, should they become necessary to track Coronavirus COVID-19 exposures.
4. Longhouse and church leaders should remind all funeral participants to adhere to social distancing of at least six feet, sneezing or coughing into a tissue and immediately throwing it away, washing heads regularly with soap and water, using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available, not touching their faces and not shaking hands or hugging others.
5. **If A DECEASED MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, THE SEALED BODY BAGS SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF ALL INVOLVED.**
6. The Yakama Nation will provide cleaning supplies to longhouses and churches as needed, and as supplies are available, but the Yakama Nation does not have the capacity to deep clean all religious facilities at this time.

By taking these aggressive steps today, we hope to ensure that we can all resume our traditions and ceremonies together in our longhouses and churches as soon as possible. We support our Yakama People continuing our ceremonies and traditions at home with other members of your immediate household. Stay home. Stay healthy.



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2

March 25, 2020

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 13, 2020 pursuant to their authority in T-10-61 and T-064-20; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued Public Safety Order No. 1 on March 23, 2020 ordering all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments to “Stay Home, Stay Healthy,” subject to certain limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee provides this further guidance regarding Public Safety Announcement No. 2’s applicability to longhouse and church ceremonies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee, acting in accordance with T-10-61 and T-064-20, that until further notice all longhouses and churches within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments are encouraged to delay all spiritual ceremonial gatherings except for funerals as detailed in the attached Notice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Yakama Members may still exercise Treaty-reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights for subsistence purposes, and for ceremonial use at places of residence with immediate family members subject to all existing Yakama Nation hunting and fishing seasons and regulations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Yakama Nation does not waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our Sovereign Immunity, whether expressed or implied, by virtue of this declaration of emergency for any and all administrative or legal action which may arise directly or indirectly from the same, nor does the Yakama Nation waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our rights, privileges, remedies or services guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855.



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DONE AND DATED this 25th day of March, 2020 by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee.

Delano Saluskin, Chairman
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council

Virgil Lewis, Sr., Vice-Chairman
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council

Athena Sanchey-Yallup, Secretary
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council



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****NOTICE****

Companion to Public Safety Announcement No. 2
Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee
March 25, 2020

In an effort to stop the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 in our community, all longhouses and churches within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments are strongly encouraged to delay ceremonial gatherings and other services until further notice. Funerals are exempt from this temporary delay of services, and it is recommended that longhouse and church leaders implement the following safety measures:

1. Longhouse and church leaders may conduct funeral services.
2. Longhouse and church leaders are encouraged to consider public health and safety protocols when the various funeral ceremonies are conducted.
3. We recommend funeral participation be limited to immediate family.
4. Longhouse and church leaders should remind all funeral participants to practice social distancing of at least six feet, sneeze or cough into a tissue and immediately throw it away, wash hands regularly with soap and water, and use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
5. **If A DECEASED MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, THE SEALED BODY BAGS SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF ALL INVOLVED.**
6. The Yakama Nation will provide cleaning supplies to longhouses and churches as needed, and as supplies are available.
7. During this health crisis, we encourage families to feast at home for your own protection.

We support our Yakama People continuing our ceremonies and traditions from the safety of your homes. Stay home. Stay healthy.