



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY ORDER NO. 3**

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 issued Public Safety Announcement No. 2 on March 25, 2020, which encouraged longhouses and churches to delay all spiritual ceremonial gatherings except for funerals, and confirmed 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; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infections have continued to increase, with 28,870 infections and 1,276 deaths in Washington State, 6,490 infections and 146 deaths in Yakima County, and 431 infections and 15 deaths within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments; and

WHEREAS, as of June 20, 2020, Yakima County had the highest rate of COVID-19 infections per capita in the western United States, with twenty-six percent positivity in COVID-19 tests during the week of June 15, 2020, twenty-two percent of all hospitalizations statewide for COVID-19, nineteen percent occupancy of hospital beds by COVID-19 patients (as compared to two and one half percent statewide), and approximately ten percent of all COVID-19 deaths statewide, while comprising three percent of Washington’s population; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee has determined that additional public health and safety measures are necessary to combat the spread of COVID-19.



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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 individuals within the Yakama Reservation or off-Reservation trust allotments must wear a face covering or mask over their noses and mouths when in any indoor public setting. Individuals must also wear a face covering or mask over their noses and mouths when in any outdoor public setting unless social distancing of at least six feet is observed at all times.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all business within the Yakama Reservation and on off-Reservation trust allotments, whether licensed by the Yakama Nation or the State of Washington, are directed not to serve onsite customers, whether inside or outside the business premises, who are not wearing a face covering or mask over their noses and mouths, unless said customer is exempt from wearing a face covering or mask pursuant to this Public Safety Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these directives do not apply in the case of individuals who are under two years of age, who have a physical disability that prevents easily wearing or removing a face covering or mask or have been instructed not to wear a mask by a healthcare professional, or who are deaf or communicating with an individual who is deaf and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Public Safety Order should be read broadly to achieve its intended purpose of increasing mask and face covering usage amongst all Yakama Reservation residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, under the authority delegated in T-064-20, this Public Safety Order is enforceable by a civil fine of \$50 per violation against individuals and \$500 per violation against businesses, and is enforceable in the Yakama Nation Tribal Court. The Yakama Nation Police Department is directed to issue civil citations to all individuals and businesses who fail to comply with this Public Safety Order, regardless of whether the individual is Indian or non-Indian, and regardless of whether the business is licensed by the Yakama Nation or the State of Washington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Public Safety Order shall take effect on June 26, 2020, and shall remain in effect until the Yakama Nation's March 13, 2020



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Declaration of Emergency is lifted, or the this Public Safety Order is amended or rescinded, whichever occurs first.

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.

DONE AND DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> , day of June 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