



# SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

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## **Southern Ute Indian Tribe Issues 'Stay at Home' Advisory**

**Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Colo.:** Please see below for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's 'Stay at Home' Advisory. Through the advisory, the Tribe reaffirms the importance of slowing down the spread of COVID-19. The Tribe urges all residents to do their part by staying at home unless it is essential.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAY AT HOME ADVISORY OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE**

#### **RECITALS:**

**WHEREAS**, under Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution, "The inherent powers of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, including those set forth in [the Indian Reorganization Act], as amended, shall be exercised by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council, subject only to limitations imposed by the Constitution and Statutes of the United States, by the regulations of the Department of the Interior and by this constitution."; and

**WHEREAS**, under Article VII, Section 1(n) of the Constitution, Tribal Council has the authority, "To protect and preserve the property, wildlife and natural resources of the [T]ribe, and to regulate the conduct of trade and the use and disposition of tribal property upon the reservation."; and

**WHEREAS**, in Res. No. 2004-225, the Tribe approved the Southern Ute Community Emergency Operations Plan ("Plan") and directed the implementation of the Plan under the Chairman's direction, including developing and maintaining standard operating procedures and checklists for responding to both impending and actual disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Plan, Section V(F), the Tribal Council's duties in an emergency or disaster include, among other things, signing a resolution declaring an emergency or disaster to protect life and preserve property and the environment by ensuring prevention, preparation, and response measures are in place; and

**WHEREAS**, in Res. No. 2020-025, Tribal Council declared a state of emergency to respond to the spread of the coronavirus, which included, among other things, the state of emergency continuing "until the conclusion of response activities including attendant documentation is complete"; and

**WHEREAS**, in Res. No. 2020-031, Tribal Council approved the Southern Ute Health Center Communicable Disease Response Plan, which allows for, among other things, quarantine, isolation, and closure measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions that spurred Tribal Council to declare the state of emergency have been aggravated by the identified cases of the coronavirus in the region and public health experts anticipate that, because of the contagiousness of the virus, over the coming weeks and months, the Tribe will continue to see cases of the virus spreading within the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the virus that causes COVID-19 can easily be spread through person-to-person contact; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of immunization or specific treatment, the Tribal Council acknowledges that social distancing is the best tool currently available to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the danger that the coronavirus continues to pose, the Tribal Council finds it in the interests of the public health and safety and to further protect property, to advise the tribal membership to stay at home.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Tribal Council of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe hereby reaffirms that there is a local public health disaster emergency within the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, that immediate and drastic measures are necessary to mitigate the imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from the COVID-19 virus.
2. The effect of this Advisory shall be to urge our tribal members to slow the spread of COVID-19 and **STAY AT HOME** to every extent possible – especially if you are among the high risk category, to limit non-essential activities of daily life, and to minimize and prevent social contact. Those who exhibit symptoms **must** isolate themselves so as not to infect others.
3. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Advisory shall be effective upon the date and time given below and shall remain in effect until it is no longer necessary as deemed by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council.

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE**

Date: 3-23-2020

By: Christine Sage