



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Pascua Yaqui Tribe/ Health Department Efforts in Mitigating COVID-19 Pandemic

(TUCSON, Ariz. March 13, 2020) - In an effort to ensure the most effective response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has implemented the following preventative and proactive measures for the health and well-being of the Pascua Yaqui tribal communities;

1. Chairman Robert Valencia issued a travel restriction on March 6, 2020, updated on March 12, 2020 to suspend all travel in US and abroad until further notice to protect the safety and welfare of tribal employees.
2. The Health Department issued a Public Health Alert informational update COVID-19 on January 30, 2020 and on March 5, 2020.
3. The Health Department issued instructions to all tribal staff on the Virus Symptoms and what to do. Front Desk Internal Protocols were issued on March 6, 2020.
4. Health Department Safety Officer and Indian Health Service Environmental staff are working with Casino Del Sol Resort management on proactive measures on how to protect customers and casino staff.
5. The Health Department is working with the Tribe's KPYT radio station to inform the tribal community and the public on how to protect themselves through public service announcements and Q & A sessions.
6. The Health Department Nursing Program is providing outreach and educational materials on the COVID-19 and preventative measures to the community and tribal programs.
7. The Tribal Council passed Resolution C03-55-20, a comprehensive Public Health Code Ordinance 13-20, which provides the Health Department and Law Enforcement Authorities with the authority to address infectious disease outbreaks.
8. The Health Department is meeting with the Tribe's Facilities department regularly to increase cleaning in tribal buildings.
9. The Health Department has met with the Public Safety, Fire Department/EMS and Police Department to address coordination of services, communication and information.
10. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator will coordinate information with the Capitanes to address any concerns during cultural ceremonies.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Health Department is in regular communication with state and county Health Departments, El Rio Community Center and Indian Health Service for COVID-19 updates, technical assistance and guidance.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe governmental planning and organization preparation relating to appropriate measures will continue to be monitored and appropriate action will be taken to protect the health and safety of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

About The Pascua Yaqui Tribe

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is a federally recognized tribe of Yaqui Native Americans in southern Arizona encompassing five communities: New Pascua – the reservation, Old Pascua – in Tucson, Barrio Libre – South Tucson, Marana – northwest of Tucson, and Guadalupe – southeast suburb of Phoenix. The tribe gained recognition by the United States government on Sept. 18, 1978. The Pascua Yaqui people descended from the Yaqui people of Mexico who first settled in the United States near Nogales and south Tucson in the early 1800s. In the early 20th century, the tribe began to expand into settlements north of Tucson. There are approximately 22,000 registered members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. For additional information, visit <https://www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/>.

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