



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

(TUCSON, Ariz. March 17, 2020) - In an effort to ensure the most effective response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has approved additional preventative and proactive measures to the previous measures of March 13, for the health and well-being of the Pascua Yaqui tribal communities;

1. The following Tribal Programs/Services have been temporarily suspended until further notice: Liogue Senior Center, Ili U'usim Mahtawa'po Headstart, The Dr. Fernando Escalante Library at the Itom Mahtawa'po Education Center,
2. Limiting Dental services to emergencies/extractions only.
3. Temporarily suspending the weekly Health Transportation Services from Guadalupe to Pascua.
4. Postponing the Dia de los Ninos celebration gathering till further notice.
5. Temporarily closing the Wellness Center effective 3/23/2020 till further notice.
6. Suspending Tribal-sponsored meetings/gatherings of 50 people.
7. The Health Department will share information with the Tribe's various communities regarding these measures and other potential measures that may be necessary.

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/>.

For information regarding our services, please go to our website: [www.pythealth.org](http://www.pythealth.org) or call our Help-Line for programs and services information, 520-570-7888.

