



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT NAME: Reuben Howard, Executive Director of Health Department,  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe 520 879-6000 [Reuben.Howard@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov](mailto:Reuben.Howard@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov)

Or

Abbie S. Fink, HMA Public Relations, 602-903-8502, [afink@hmapr.com](mailto:afink@hmapr.com)



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

(TUCSON, Ariz. June 18, 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, March 17, March 23 and April 7, April 17 for the health and well-being of the Pascua Yaqui tribal communities;

1. Effective June 10, 2020 Enacted by Tribal Council Resolution C06-131-20 Ordinance 29-20 ORDINANCE OF THE PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE ENACTING A CORONOVIRUS PROTECTION ORDER. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall continue until further action is taken by the Tribal Council.
2. The Tribal Council, expressly in the best interest of the health and safety of our tribal members residing on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, hereby orders as follows:
  - a. All individual residing on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation are ordered to stay at home or current place of residence, except as may be required for medical treatment, food, or safety for themselves or their family members. When leaving your home to obtain these essential services, as few people should leave the home as possible.
  - b. A Curfew is in effect from 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.
  - c. All parks and non-essential public places of gathering are closed, including the cultural grounds, except for the walking paths, which may be used for outdoor exercise.
  - d. All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring at a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes expressly permitted in this Order.
  - e. There shall be no gatherings of more than ten people.
  - f. Food and candy sales out of trucks or residences are prohibited.
  - g. Exceptions to the stay at home Order are provided as follows:
    - i. To engage in outdoor recreation activity, including without limitation walking, hiking, biking, running, if done in compliance with social distancing requirements.

- h. Exceptions to the stay at home and curfew Orders are provided as follows:
  - i. For employment or to volunteer
  - ii. To perform your cultural obligations
- i. All residents and any visitors must:
  - i. Practice social distancing.
  - ii. Wash hands frequently. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol base.
  - iii. Individuals who are sick must not leave their residence, except to seek medical care.
  - iv. Refrain from handshakes or hugs and use alternative forms of greeting.
  - v. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, which should be discarded immediately.
  - vi. Cloth face coverings shall be worn in public settings, including the workplace, where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- 3. This Order does not restrict the operations of any commercial enterprises on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation not specifically prohibited by this Order, so long as those enterprises are undertaking efforts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among employees and customers as set out in Section 9.
- 4. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Law Enforcement shall enforce this Order pursuant to 4 PYTC § 1-710.
- 5. The Public Health Authority shall provide a written report to Tribal Council daily on the numbers of individuals tested, and include statistical, non-identifying, information for:
  - a. The number of pending, confirmed and positive/negative tests;
  - b. A breakdown of Tribal members for each category of test data above; and
  - c. A breakdown of Tribal employees for each category of test data above.
- 6. Department Directors that contract with congregate-type settings, such as prisons, group homes, behavioral health facilities, nursing/long term care facilities, shall obtain similar statistical information set out in the paragraph above for each of the facilities with which the Department contracts.

The Health Services Division Programs, available for services and by appointment, Dental, Specialty Clinic, Alternative Medicine, Centered Spirit Programs, Sewa U'usim Program, WIC, Yoeme Managed Care, New Beginning, Hiaspi Kuakte, Drug Testing Program, Community Health Nursing Program, Special Diabetes Prevention and Treatment Program and Wellness Center, Injury Prevention and Public Health Preparedness Program, and Transportation. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through this 'new normal' in providing services to ensure your safety and meeting your health needs as we mitigate COVID-19 pandemic. Health Services Division 520 879-6000, please call for more information on services and scheduling an appointment.

The El Rio Clinic Pascua Yaqui Tribal Site open from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, close for lunch 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. The Pharmacy hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Please note hours on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month opens at 9:00 a.m. Phone: 520 879-6225.

Centered Spirit Program has several locations, including the main office at New Pascua and satellite clinics at St. Mary's and Guadalupe. After 5 pm, calls to the crisis line will be answered by EMPACT at 520 591-7206.

Centered Spirit staff can be reached at the following:

- Centered Spirit – Main (New Pascua): 520-879-6060 / Crisis: 520-591-7206
- Centered Spirit – St. Mary's: 520-879-5450
- Centered Spirit – Guadalupe: 480-768-2000 / Crisis: 480-736-4943
- Sewa U'usim PAL Warmline – 520 328-6982 or 520 328-9117

The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Health Department is in regular communication with state and county Health Departments, El Rio Community Health 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 Yaqui people are among the original inhabitants of the Sonoran Desert region, extending from the Gila River in present day Arizona to the Rio Yaqui valley in Sonora, Mexico. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona is a United States Historic Tribe that includes nine officially recognized communities in Arizona in and between the Tucson and Phoenix metropolitan areas. The Tribe's administrative center is located on Tribal Trust Lands southwest of Tucson. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is part of the sovereign and indigenous Yaqui Nation that spans the United States/Mexico border and the Tribe maintains close association with the Yaqui communities in the eight sacred villages along the Yaqui River. 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:

