Public Health Emergency Order Due to COVID-19

MARCH 13, 2020

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2019 several cases of pneumonia with an unknown cause were detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and reported to the World Health Organization. The underlying virus giving rise to those reported instances of respiratory illness was later identified as a novel coronavirus disease named COVID-19.

WHEREAS, since it was first identified and reported, COVID-19 has spread globally. Over 100 countries have confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 100,000 people have been identified.

WHEREAS, the incidence of COVID-19 within the United States has similarly increased. The first domestic report of COVID-19 occurred on January 21, 2020 in Washington State. To date, there have been more than 1,000 reported domestic cases of COVID-19 in 39 states.

WHEREAS, several public health organizations have implemented emergency measures intended to slow the spread of the disease. For example, on January 20, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention activated its Emergency Operations Center in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The WHO similarly declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern shortly thereafter. At least twelve states, including California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah and Washington, have also implemented emergency protocols intended to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.
WHEREAS, my administration and the Executive Management Team have been proactive in its approach to the COVID-19 epidemic. Over past two days, we have been in direct and frequent contact with our local ACL Service Unit, IHS leadership and the State of New Mexico Department of Health in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in New Mexico. For this reason, it is necessary to take immediate action to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to minimize the attendant physical and economic harms.

WHEREAS, the further spread of COVID-19 in the State of New Mexico poses a threat to the health, safety, wellbeing and property of the residents in the State due to, among other things, illness from the COVID-19, illness-related absenteeism from employment (particularly among public safety and law enforcement personnel and persons engaged in activities and businesses critical to the economy and infrastructure of the State) and potential closures of schools or other places of public gathering.

NOW, THEREFORE, for the reasons addressed above, I, Brian D. Vallo, Governor of the Pueblo of Acoma, by Inherent Authority do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. All large gatherings of 100 members or more are hereby prohibited under the powers and authority set forth within the Pueblo of Acoma.

I FURTHER DIRECT as follows:

1. Any restrictions of this Declaration based upon the existence of a condition of public health importance shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements set forth in the New Mexico Public Health Act.
2. This Declaration shall remain in effect until such time the State of New Mexico and the United States Government have lifted similar declarations. If determined necessary by my office, this declaration may be renewed.

I FURTHER ADVISE the Acoma community to take the following precautionary measures:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid physical contact with individuals you do not know including tourists and Interstate 40 travelers.
- Practice preventative actions.
- Clean your hands often.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or visiting a public place.
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – buttons, handles, handrails, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or fingers if you must touch something.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Check on elders and other family members who might live alone.
- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks and cellphones).
- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.
- Avoid all non-essential travel including plane trips, trains and cruise ships.
- If you and/or household members have any of the following scenarios, you must follow
  the Center for Disease Control procedures of a 14-day self-quarantine:
  
  ▪ Have traveled recently to countries and cities with high numbers of confirmed
    COVID-19 cases.
  
  ▪ Have had contact with individuals known to have the virus.
  
  ▪ Have a family member who has returned to the household from travel or temporary
    residence in another state or city with known high number of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Other preventive measures will be initiated and enforced by the tribal government to reduce risk.

Signed into effect on this 13th day of March 2020:

Brian D. Vallo, Governor
PUEBLO OF ACOMA