

SPECIAL EDITION NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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THE GRIN



SPECIAL EDITION

GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS || www.GRICNEWS.org

AUGUST 13, 2020

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As COVID-19 Pandemic Continues, Governor Lewis Extends 'Stay At Home' Order, Delays In-Person School Classes

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Gila River Indian Community

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have far-reaching impacts on the Gila River Indian Community and the State of Arizona. To keep Community members, elders, children and GRIC employees as safe as possible, Governor Stephen Roe Lewis has signed three new Executive Orders that extend the Community's "stay at home" order and that limit tribal employees' return to work and the opening of the Community's schools for the upcoming school year.

Governor Lewis signed the three orders on July 30, 2020. The orders include:

Third Amended Executive Order Number 6, which extends through September 6, 2020 the "stay at home" provisions originally implemented by the Governor on April 3, 2020. This order – the first return to sheltering in place anywhere in the state – requires Community members to remain at home to the greatest extent possible, unless they are involved in essential activities. These essential activities include seeking medical care or assisting

others to get medical care; providing care for a family member, friend or animal in another household; obtaining food or necessary household supplies; engaging in outdoor activities like exercise while observing physical distancing; attending work for essential functions; or traveling to and from work.

The Gila River Police Department has been authorized to enforce this Executive Order under the Community's "criminal nuisance" laws, which include a fine of up to \$500. Non-tribal members may be cited under the "civil trespass" laws, which also includes a fine of up to \$500.

Seventh Amended Executive Order Number Five, which extends the partial closure of tribal government offices until September 7, 2020. Certain employees may be directed to return to the

Community workplace prior to this date as needed. Department directors are directed to develop and submit plans to immediately utilize teleworking or other alternative safe work arrangements for as many employees as practical, and to submit those plans to the Office of Community Manager. Once employees return to the



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis signed three new Executive Orders that extended the "Stay At Home" order. The previous Executive Orders remain in effect including Executive Order No. 8, which requires masks or face coverings in the Gila River Indian Community. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

workplace, appropriate protective masks shall be mandatory at all times in the workplace when in the proximity of other employees (less than 6 feet) until further notice.

Second Amended Executive Order Number Two, which man-

dates that all schools within the boundaries of the Gila River Indian Reservation provide education to their students only through virtual classes or distance learning, and not through in-person on-site classes, from the date that each school opens until at least Octo-

ber 5, 2020.

The Executive Order also directs each school within the boundaries of the Community to implement a plan for providing meals for students and other

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Community Schools To Be Online Only Until At Least October 5th; Schools Will Offer Meals For Students

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Gila River Indian Community

On July 30, 2020, Governor Stephen Roe Lewis signed the Second Amended Executive Order Number Two. This Executive Order mandates that all schools within the boundaries of the Community offer instruction for students only through virtual classes or by distance learning.

No on-site classes will be allowed before October 5, 2020, at

the earliest.

The Governor's Executive Order also directs each school on the reservation to provide meals for students and other school-aged children while practicing COVID-19 prevention measures.

Families who have yet to enroll their school-age children in classes are strongly encouraged to do so by calling the school and making an appointment (or by enrolling online for schools that offer digital sign-up). Travel to

and from school to pick up learning packets or to register has been designated an essential activity and is permitted under the Governor's Executive Orders.

Here is a breakdown of how GRIC schools are implementing the amended Executive Order Number 2:

Blackwater Community School

Blackwater Community School and the Akimel O'otham Pee Posh Charter School began virtual learning on July 22nd for its students.

Blackwater will begin serving breakfast and lunch to students on Monday, August 10th. See the graphic on page 3.

Casa Blanca Community School

Casa Blanca began virtual learning on August 3rd for stu-



Casa Blanca Community School held a "Technology Distribution" from August 10-14 for students to attend school through virtual classes or distance learning for students. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

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Business Interruption Grant Applications Now Available

The Gila River Indian Community’s Business Interruption Grant Program is available to businesses that have experienced a business interruption and that are solely owned by a Community member, or Community members.

If you are a Community member and your business had to close due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, or has experienced a 50%, or more, drop in gross receipts in any quarter in 2020, compared to the same quarter in 2019, you may be eligible to receive the grant.

The program is open to any Community-member-owned business, including farmers and ranchers, that can demonstrate a business interruption.

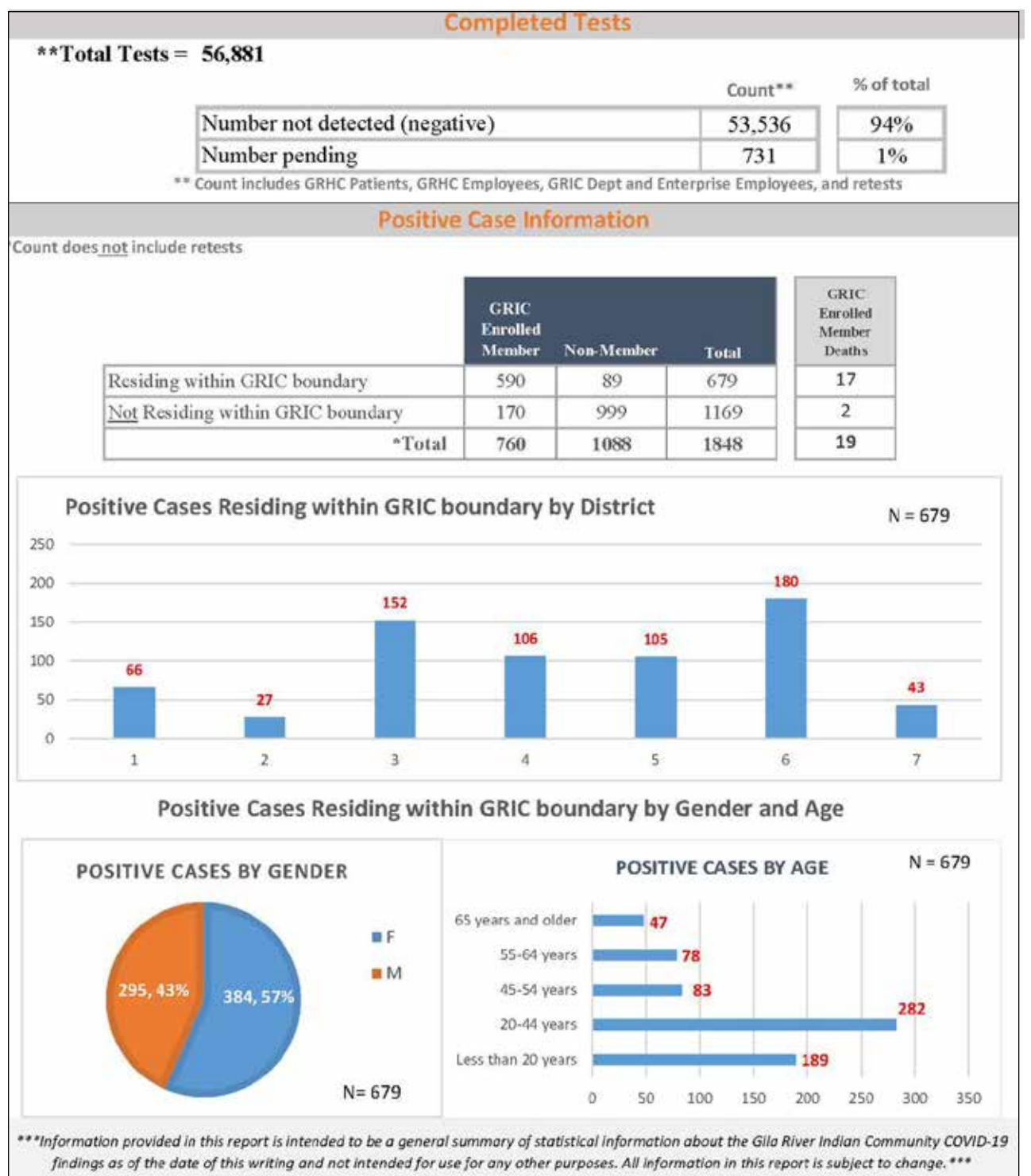
Please email Martha.notah@gric.nsn.us to request an application via email.

Applications should be submitted to the Office of the Treasurer.

GRIC Testing Program Up to More Than 53,500 Tests; More Than 96% Test Negative

The Gila River Indian Community has administered more than 53,500 tests for COVID-19 as of August 9, 2020. In total, 760 Community members have tested positive for the coronavirus since testing began (with 590 of those members living on the reservation). A total of 1,088 non-members have tested positive so far – meaning that 96.5% of those tested have tested negative for COVID-19.

The above does not include retests or tests where results have yet to be reported. In total, 19 Community members have passed away after testing positive. The full set of statistics can be seen here. *(Data current as of 8/9/20, 5 p.m.)*





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Lt. Governor
Robert Stone

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Joey Whitman

District 2
Carol Schurz

District 3
Avery White
Rodney Jackson

District 4
Jennifer Allison
Regina Antone-Smith
Delmar Jones
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District 6
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EXECUTIVE ORDERS
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school-aged children while practicing COVID-19 prevention measures. If the need for meals exceeds the school's current capacity or available resources, the school may request additional funding from the Community Treasurer.

"While we have seen some indicators moving in the right

direction on the pandemic, we continue to see positive tests and deaths occurring at high levels within the State of Arizona," said Governor Lewis. "Knowing that, I have acted with an abundance of caution when it comes to reopening government offices, in-person instruction in the Community's schools and keeping in place the Community's 'stay at home' order. I know none of this is convenient, but we cannot afford to

take lightly a pandemic that remains for many people a matter of life and death."

In addition to these newly signed amended Executive Orders, the Governor's previous Executive Orders continue to remain in effect. Important measures to remember include:

Executive Order Number 3, which reminds Community members and business that "price gouging" is unlawful on the Gila

River Indian Reservation and those engaging in price gouging will be subject to revocation of business licenses or, in the case of non-members, exclusion.

Executive Order Number 8, which directs the mandatory use of face masks or coverings for all persons in the Community over the age of 2 years, and directs that Reservation-based employers provide appropriate PPE for employees and visitors.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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dents. The school is currently offering FACE Preschool and Adult Education; K-4 classes; full Exceptional Student Services (Special Education) and full Gifted and Talented Education. The curriculum includes art, music, agriculture and O'otham Language education.

Children enrolled in the FACE PreK - 4th program each receive a new iPad and headset for classes. Classes are held on the Microsoft Teams For Schools Secure Platform for Learning. The school offers teacher-provided Parent Curriculum Support; Virtual Technology support by appointment; Live Teacher Instruction; a full standards based curriculum (Wit and Wisdom, Eureka Math); Offline packets and workbooks and a full set of school supplies for each student.

Classes are scheduled Monday to Thursday, 8 am to 3 pm. Independent study and review happens Friday 8 am to 12:30 pm. Teacher Office Hours are held daily by appointment. The school also offers a full Counseling Program plus Weekly SEL Classes and small groups.

For meals, the school offers breakfast and lunch for the full week. Drive-through pickup is available during the pandemic, as is delivery for families without

transportation.

Gila Crossing Community School

Gila Crossing Community School began offering virtual classes on August 3rd, 2020.

Classes begin each day at 8:00 am and conclude at 3:00 pm. Teachers are available throughout the day via email.

Each student has or will receive a Chromebook (computer) for their use at home. Households which do not have internet access will receive a mobile hotspot to access the internet when received from the vendor.

Most teachers will conduct classes from their homes using their assigned computer/laptop.

Gila Crossing has established a "help line" to troubleshoot issues with Chromebooks, answer technology questions from parents/guardians, provide Chromebook training to parents/guardians and coordinate on-line instruction.

Each student is expected to be on-line every school day. Each teacher will be able to monitor when a student logs-on and the duration of their on-line attendance. The school will strictly enforce on-line attendance.

GCCS will be delivering school supplies (paper, pencils, work assignments, books) to all its students for the student's use during on-line classes.

GCCS will continue to deliv-

er breakfast and lunch through the bus routes

GCCS will be on-line/virtual for the foreseeable future. The school will reevaluate its plans once the danger of the coronavirus lessens or until further instructions are received from Tribal Education or the Governor's Office.

St. Peter's Indian Mission

St. Peter's Indian Mission school will begin online classes on September 8th. The school will provide breakfast and lunches for students daily.

Sacaton School Districts - (Sacaton Middle School, Sacaton Elementary School)

Online learning for Sacaton Elementary School will begin August 10, 2020. Meal service is Monday through Friday, Breakfast & Lunch with hot meals to go from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Meals can be picked up in the middle school gym.

SESD has launched the groundwork of utilizing Synergy's portal for Online Registration. This includes Student Enrollment Verification for students that attended last school year and are returning. This online process will support families in completing and submitting their paperwork from home. Families can access grades, attendance, and other data about their child(ren) at the click of a button. The district is excited about this opportunity

as it will support Excellence in Student Learning and Excellence in Community Relations - especially during online learning!

We are prioritizing safety and quality instruction, our Return to School Plan adheres to the CDC guidelines, ADE recommendations, and Executive Orders in alignment with our Strategic Plan. Students return to school on August 10, using an on-line format. Input gathered from stakeholders (staff, students, and families) contributed to the planning document. This plan is flexible in responding to changing health conditions. This is a living document that will continue to be updated based on current information (Health and Safety).

You can see the document at sacatonschools.org.

If you have questions about Sacaton Elementary School, call 520.562.8600 x 3001. If you have questions about Sacaton Middle School call 520.562.8600 x 2001.

SESD is supporting all registered Preschool - 8th grade learners by checking out devices to provide access to online learning opportunities! Please contact your child's school to schedule an appointment! The student and parent/guardian must be present during the 20 minute training.

To honor safety precautions, a temperature check, completion of a brief questionnaire and masks are required during the training.

BWCS Breakfast & Lunch Distribution

BWCS will officially begin our Breakfast and Lunch Distribution Program **Monday, August 10th** serving **Hot Lunch & Cold Breakfast** for the following school day in **Districts 1, 2, & 3**. Please be sure to bring a box or basket if you are picking up meals for multiple students.

In preparation for Monday 8/10, we will be in all 3 districts at the specified locations/times on **Friday 8/7** to distribute breakfasts for the kids to eat on Monday morning.

Location:

District 1 D1 Annex Building 11:45 am - 12:30 pm

District 2 D2 Service Center 11:45 am - 12:30 pm

District 3 D3 Boys & Girls Club 11:45 am - 12:30 pm

Menu

8/7: Cold Breakfast delivered for Monday Morning

8/10: Corn Dog, Baby Carrots, Apples/Applesauce & Milk

8/11: Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese, Bean Salad, Oranges, & Milk

8/12: Cheese/Peperoni Pizza, Caesar Salad, Banana, & Milk

8/13: Beef & Potato Wrap W/ Shredded Cabbage/Cheese/Salsa, Celery Sticks, Pears, & Milk

8/14: Grilled BBQ Chicken Sandwich W/ Shredded Lettuce, Ranchers Potato Salad, Peaches, & Milk



OPERATION STAY AT HOME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis extended the “Stay at Home” provisions of Executive Order No. 6 to remain in effect through September 7, 2020. Individuals within GRIC Boundaries of the Gila River Indian Reservation shall limit their time away from their place of residence or property except for essential activities.

Why is this “Stay at Home” executive order necessary?

The Community has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases similar to that of the State overall. We have had 17 members die from this disease. Community must take action to preserve the health and safety of the Gila River Indian Community and its members.

What does this executive order mean?

Unless you are engaged in an “essential activity,” you must stay at home. Staying at home is still the best and easiest way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What is an “essential activity”?

The executive order lists essential activities. “Back to school” activities, including obtaining homework or instructional packets or meals for school-age children are considered essential activities.

What happens if I violate the Stay at Home executive order?

Citations will be issued by the Police Department and offenders could face up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500. There will be no warnings issued.

What will I be cited for if I violate the Stay at Home Order?

You will be cited under GRIC Code section 5.1003, “Criminal Nuisance,” for conduct which recklessly creates or maintains a condition which endangers the health of others. Juveniles out past curfew will also be charged with “Curfew Violation” under the Children’s Code, GRIC Code section 7.602.

What if a non-member violates this executive order?

Non-members will be cited for “Civil Trespass” under GRIC Code section 8.203 and removed from the Community. There will be no warnings issued.

What about commercial businesses or enterprises and government operations?

This executive order does not apply to these operations.

What should I do if I observe what I believe to be a violation of the Stay at Home executive order?

Call the Police Department non-emergency line at 520-562-4511

Do I need documentation from my employer deeming me essential?

No. Travel to and from any employment is not affected by this executive order. GRPD officers are not asking or looking for any type of special paperwork from your employer at this time.

Will I be pulled over for just driving on the roadways?

No, not for just traveling on the roadways. If, however, you are committing a traffic violation or crime that would be enforced independent of the executive order, you may be stopped, like any other day and subsequently asked about possible executive order violations.

Will there be roadblocks?

No.

Will there be any special GRPD enforcement of this executive order?

Yes. Starting this weekend, and every weekend until further notice, GRPD will be conducting “Operation Stay at Home.” This will consist of a special task force of police officers who will be specifically assigned each weekend night, Friday to Sunday, with enforcing the Stay at Home executive order.

Do I still have to wear a mask?

Yes. Executive Order No. 8, which requires protective face masks to be worn, is still in effect. You can contact your District Service Center to request a face mask