

SPECIAL EDITION NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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THE GRIN



SPECIAL EDITION

GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS || www.GRICNEWS.org

JULY 3, 2020

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As COVID-19 Pandemic Worsens in Arizona, Community Takes Proactive Safety Measures Including “Shelter In Place” Order

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Gila River Indian Community

New statistics released Monday, June 29, 2020, by the Arizona Department of Health show that the number of hospitalizations statewide related to COVID-19 continue to linger near record levels, as does the number of hospital beds and intensive care beds currently in use across the state. These numbers – together with a record 3,858 COVID-19 positive tests reported statewide on Sunday alone – continue to dramatize the seriousness of the pandemic in Arizona and within the Community. In addition, there have been four new deaths of Community members since June 27, bringing the total number of Community deaths to seven.

“This is a deadly serious situation and the Community needs to do everything in its power to keep our elders, children, families and employees safe while the virus continues to attack,” said Gila River Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “We cannot stop being vigilant for a moment, because this is truly a matter of life or death.”

On Monday, Governor Lewis signed three new Executive

“We need to take swift and meaningful action.

That’s what the latest Executive Orders have been designed to do – save lives.”

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

Gov. Lewis on March 23, 2020. The latest amendment **extends the closure of all tribal government offices until at least August 2, 2020.**

• An enhancement to Executive Order No. 8, initially signed by Gov. Lewis on June 18th. That Executive Order made mandatory the wearing of face coverings by all residents or non-residents on the Gila River reservation. The enhancement adds an enforcement provision to the mask requirement: **First-time violators of the face covering directive will receive a written warning. Those who violate the order more than once will be given a citation under the Community’s Criminal Code. Non-members of the Community who violate the mandate more than once will be cited for Civil Trespass.**

“Again, we don’t have the luxury of ignoring COVID-19 or acting like we are not facing potentially serious health rami-

Orders meant to protect public health on the reservation, including:

• A reactivation of the Governor’s April 3, 2020 Executive Order No. 6 **mandating that Community members stay at home and shelter in place unless performing essential activities. This Executive Order by Governor Lewis is the first such return to sheltering place anywhere in the state of Arizona.** Permitted 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. This Executive Order is set to remain in effect until at least August 2, 2020.

• An amendment to Executive Order No. 5, first signed by

fications,” said Governor Lewis. “As the state of Arizona continues to see a spike in COVID-19 numbers, we must do more than monitor the situation. We need to take swift and meaningful action. That’s what the latest Executive Orders have been designed to do – save lives.”

In partnership with the Steward Health Care Systems, the Community has had in place for weeks now a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program for all residents and employees. To date, this program has conducted more than 28,000 tests on members and non-members, with a positive test result rate of approximately 2.85%.

Thus far, results indicate 273 positive tests among Community members and 471 positive tests among non-members. Seven Community members have passed away after testing positive for COVID-19.

With each positive test, health workers have engaged in contact tracing and follow-up testing to confirm the extent of the infections around the infected person, if any.

Please keep in mind the following as you seek the best ways

to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy:

• Follow all requirements set forth in the applicable Executive Orders.

• Face coverings are available in the Community’s District Offices and at the Office of Emergency Management. Please get a mask and use it whenever you are around others. The vast majority of medical and public health officials are in agreement that wearing masks can save lives during this pandemic.

• Practice physical distancing of at least six feet at all times to reduce the risk of infection to yourself and others.

• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

For more information about the Community’s pandemic response and how to stay safe, please visit: <http://www.mygilariver.com/index.php/coronavirus-updates>.

GRIC, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SIGN AGREEMENT TO PARTNER ON COMMUNITY’S PANDEMIC RESPONSE EFFORT

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Gila River Indian Community

To ensure that the Gila River Indian Community has the best expert advice and training available to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community has signed a consulting agreement with the University of Arizona and its world-class Center for Rural Health.

The agreement means that the Community will receive regular comprehensive updates on the extent of the pandemic across the

state of Arizona, in Maricopa and Pinal Counties and by District on the Gila River reservation. Included in this data will be analyses of COVID-19 positive tests and per capita testing results; measurements of hospital bed, intensive care and ventilator usage; and an analysis of whether the State of Arizona has met the applicable federal and state guidelines for re-opening business and governmental functions.

Continued on Page 2



The Gila River Indian Community signed a consulting agreement with the University of Arizona as part of GRIC’s COVID-19 response. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (center) with visitors from the UA at the Office of Emergency Management, Dr. Richard H. Carmona (second from left), professor, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, and Dr. Robert C. Robbins, UA president (right). Kyle Knox/GRIN

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YOUR GRIC COVID-19 PANDEMIC LIST OF DO'S & DON'TS

If you have a medical or clinical question about COVID-19, please call the Gila River Health Care Coronavirus Hotline around the clock at (520) 550-6079.

If you would like to speak with someone about general information, contact our Public Information Officer Veronica Z. Vaughn at (520) 610-6052.

If you want to receive pandemic updates by text message, please text GILARIVER to 797979 for real-time updates.

To help mitigate the spread, please do the following:

- **WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING WHEN YOU'RE ON COMMUNITY LAND.** A mask is not required at home or in the car, please be cautious in your contacts with other people, including family members older than 65 or those who have a pre-existing condition that makes them vulnerable.
- **STAY AT HOME AND STAY SAFE** unless you must leave the house for essential activities.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS** often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **AVOID TOUCHING** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **COVER YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES** with a tissue or cough or sneeze in your sleeve.
- **AVOID SHARING** household items with a person who is ill with a respiratory illness.
- **CLEAN ALL SURFACES** such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, & bedside tables daily.
- **MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS** if you have a cough, fever and are having trouble breathing, please contact your health care provider and take steps to keep other people from getting infected.

GILA RIVER TESTING BLITZ

COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION

Get Tested - Keep Your Family Safe

Although you may experience minor discomfort during the nasal swab, please consider that being tested for COVID-19 will prevent you from unknowingly spreading the virus to your loved ones.

It takes 3-5 days to get results. During that time we ask that you follow the guidelines below.

Who should get tested

- All Community members and those residing within the boundaries of the GRIC.

Get your home ready

- Consider members of the household that may be at greater risk such as older adults and people with severe chronic illnesses.
- Choose a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Everyday preventive actions:

Stay home and speak to your healthcare provider if you develop fever, cough, or shortness of breath

If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. In adults, emergency warning signs include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face
- Fever, Cough, Sore Throat, Chills, Muscle pain, Headache, New loss of taste or smell

Take additional precautions for those at highest risk, particularly older adults and those who have severe underlying health conditions.

Stay at home and away from crowds if you or a family member are an older adult or have underlying health issues

- Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications and supplies
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Drink plenty of water and get plenty of rest



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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor
"Putting Our People First"

Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Robert Stone
Lieutenant Governor

AMENDED EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8 REGARDING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, I issued an Executive Order (now referred to as Executive Order No. 1 Regarding Coronavirus Pandemic), declaring a public health State of Emergency regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and measures to be taken in the Gila River Indian Community to address the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, from March 13, 2020 through the present, I have issued various Executive Orders to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the State of Arizona experienced a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, emergency department visits and hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a serious threat to the Community, its residents, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 8 Regarding Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Community must continue diligence in its efforts and direct measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community,

Image of Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis' Executive Order which can be found on the official GRIC Facebook page and mygilariver.com. GRIC Photo

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Equally importantly, the agreement will enlist the university's Center for Rural Health to further improve the Community's contact tracing protocols used when a Community member or employees tests positive for coronavirus and to offer professional support for GRIC's Community Tribal Health Department. University epidemiologists and public health experts will work with CTHD to hire and train additional contact tracers and collaborate with the Community on public health initiatives and a pandemic work plan meant to guide future public health efforts.

"Our conversations with the disease experts from the University of Arizona have been eye-opening, and we look forward to an expanded partnership with the UA," said Gov. Lewis. "The Community has information needs, staffing needs and public health needs that we must fulfill immediately in the midst of the COVID pandemic. The University checks all those boxes and gives us a partner with best in class abilities and experience."

The partnership agreement begins immediately and terminates on the last day of 2020. It is subject to continuation if both parties agree to move forward.



Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Robert Stone

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Arzie Hogg
Joey Whitman

District 2
Carol Schurz

District 3
Avery White
Rodney Jackson

District 4
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Gila River Indian Community responds as COVID-19 cases surge in Arizona

Gov. Lewis' Executive Order mandates face masks in all public places within the Community boundaries

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to grow in Arizona, Governor Doug Ducey has ordered the shutdown of bars, gyms, water parks and movie theaters until further notice. In the same press conference on June 29, Ducey also announced the state's schools opening will be pushed back to August 17.

Arizona is experiencing a surge of new COVID-19 cases since it reopened in mid-May; the Arizona Department of Health Services reported 84,092 COVID-19 cases with 1,720 deaths as of July 1.

Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases, the Gila River Indian Community has reissued the stay at home order that went back into effect June 29 and will remain until August 2. The Community's partial closure has also been extended to

August 2.

On June 18, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis issued Executive Order No. 8, mandating face masks in all public places within the Community boundaries. A written warning will be issued to anyone in violation of the order. Second or subsequent violations will receive a citation under the Community's Criminal Code. Face masks are free and available at any district service center for Community residents. Community employees can receive masks through their respective departments.

The Community continues COVID-19 testing for members, employees, and anyone residing in the Community, with 28,068 tests being done as of June 28; 273 Community members and 471 non-members have tested positive for COVID-19. "We must do more to monitor the situation, we have to take swift and meaningful action now,"

said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in his most recent video update where he discussed the new and

amended executive order and latest COVID-19 update in the Community.



Violations of the Executive Order No. 8 will result in written warnings and citations for subsequent violations. GRIN Photo

GILA RIVER TESTING BLITZ

COVID-19 TESTING

SAVE THE DATE!

UPCOMING DISTRICT RE-TESTING DATES:

District 3 Tuesday, June 30th – Thursday, July 2nd, 2020

District 4 Tuesday, July 7th – Thursday, July 9th, 2020

District 5 Tuesday, July 14th – Thursday, July 16th, 2020

Districts: 1, 2, 6 & 7 - Information Coming Soon!

TESTING TIMES:

9 am - 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

NOTE: Schedule is subject to change.




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MASK UP!

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



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