



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Chairman

Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma

Office of the Vice Chairman

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HOPI EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DESIGNATES PROTOCOLS FOR COVID-19

The Hopi Emergency Operations Incident Command Center Delivers Plans

KYKOTSMOVI, AZ – April 13, 2020 — Over the last few weeks, tribal nations around the country have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by enacting emergency response plans with protocols that direct immediate and necessary precautions and measures for the health & safety of all tribal communities. Here on Hopi, Hopi Tribal Leadership has engaged on behalf of The Hopi Tribe with federal, state and county officials, while each Village is working to establish immediate precautionary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of their respective communities. The collective goal at every level nationwide is to discourage contact with and further exposure to the extremely contagious Coronavirus COVID-19.

Hopi Tribe’s COVID-19 Emergency Response & Preparedness Plan

The Hopi Emergency Response Team (HERT), under Incident Commander Edison Tu’tsi’s guidance, has created a set of *objectives and key operations* as a part of the Hopi Tribe’s COVID-19 Emergency Response & Preparedness Plan. Under the Hopi Tribal leadership directive, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on March 18, 2020. Central operations for the EOC is headquartered at the Hopi Veterans Memorial Center in Kykotsmovi, Arizona. The Hopi Wellness Center serves as the official post for the EOC to centralize all HERT staff, communication, and coordinated efforts. Staging areas to support the full COVID-19 Emergency Response & Preparedness Plan include the Peace Academic Center and the Hopi Health Care Center.

EOC Incident Commander, Edison Tu’tsi adds, “*The EOC has finalized the set-up of the staging sites. The Hopi Veterans Memorial Center is set up to receive medical/hospital supplies for HHCC and the community. The Peace Academic Center will be the site for receiving all the bulk food supplies for the Community at large. The Villages are doing their own outreach for supplies and those items are being delivered directly to the Villages. All perishable food supplies are being delivered directly to the Villages as well, not to the staging site.*”

The Emergency Operations Center is guided by two main objectives;

- 1.) To provide support to the Hopi Health Care Center (HHCC) and
- 2.) To aide in logistical support* for all Hopi Villages and Communities across the reservation.

* *logistical support* includes; centralizing operations, facilitating communication and coordination resources of emergency response.

The following are key EOC operations for enacting and continuously supporting the Hopi Tribe's COVID-19 Emergency Response & Preparedness Plan;

- A. Provide logistical support & coordination of Hopi Tribal Programs and/or Services in collaboration with the Hopi Health Care Center (HHCC). As COVID-19 is a health-related pandemic, the HHCC is taking the lead respective to emergency medical preparedness.
- B. Utilize existing governmental processes and procedures, including guidelines from FEMA, to maximize the delivery of services to the Hopi Community.
- C. Maintain situational awareness of COVID-19 with the National, Regional and Arizona State stakeholders.
- D. Maintain regular communication and dissemination of information between the Hopi Tribal Leadership and the Hopi Community ensuring existing message(s) are up to date and accurate.
- E. Coordinate and communicate with the Community Service Administrators (CSAs) for the villages to address the local needs/services.
- F. Integrate Community-based businesses into the EOC Operations and COVID-19 response efforts in order to maximize resources and address local needs.
- G. Continuously develop efficiency in EOC Operations to accommodate an increase or decrease in operational needs.
- H. Enhance logistical support for remote operations for EOC and HERT staff.
- I. Evaluate current implications of COVID-19 to monitor, adjust, assess & develop long term planning and forecasting for the Hopi Community.

Supporting the Community Emergency Response

HERT has identified as Lillian Dennis as the Community Service Administrator (CSA) *point of contact*. She will serve as the designated CSA representative to bridge, and coordinate communication with HERT and the collective village CSAs under the Hopi Tribe's COVID-19 Emergency Response & Preparedness Plan.

Every Village CSA is ultimately responsible to their respective village Board of Directors and in providing their communities with information, protocols or guidance received through the Hopi Tribe and the EOC. Required information has been requested of each village CSA to provide an account of information regarding the needs of their respective Village members. It's imperative that village CSA's conduct a survey or get an account of household numbers and needs from all their community members. This will be helpful in the efficient collection and delivery of supplies to the Villages. The priority and expectation of all Villages is to provide for and support all community elders.

Addressing Local & Community Needs

Edison Tu'tsi has shared, *“The EOC is hoping and praying COVID-19 will not surge on Hopi. In the event it does, the EOC will be calling out for volunteers to help out at the HHCC as traffic controllers and security on the outside of the complex. Volunteers will also be needed at the two main staging sites, at the Veterans Memorial Center and especially at the Peace Academic Center. The distribution methods at the Peace Academic Center will be on a rolling a “drive through” system.”*

The EOC is providing support to Hopi EMS, Medical Transport staff, and Community Health Representatives by ordering priority supplies for their respective teams. The EOC recognizes that there are many needs within the community and its' members. At this time, the EOC's direct focus is to address immediate priorities based on the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) regulations/requirements. The Hopi Tribe expects to be reimbursed for monies spent on all related COVID-19 expenditures. This requires strict adherence to federal guidelines and accounting that will be handled through HERT and the EOC. Every documented request and collective effort between the Hopi Tribe, Villages, and local resources will be timely and carefully addressed, while also adhering to the highest standards for emergency response.

Chairman Nuvangyaoma acknowledges the work of the HERT and the EOC;

“The Hopi Tribal leadership is grateful but cautious with the overwhelming amount of inquiries and offers of support in the form of physical and monetary donations for the Hopi community. As Hopi institutes new and ongoing directives for the community, the Hopi Emergency Response Team (HERT) and the EOC is putting specific protocols in place to help manage the flow of traffic, resources and donations coming into the reservation. The HERT Incident Command center is asking for everyone's cooperation in following the most appropriate procedures and steps when making contributions to the Hopi community. The health and safety of the Hopi community is the ultimate priority. We appreciate all the efforts from our Emergency Response Team and our first responders, especially the health care workers serving our community.”

In-Kind Donations or Contributions for Hopi COVID-19 Relief Aid

Monetary donations can be mailed directly to the Hopi Tribe;

The Hopi Tribe
Office of the Hopi Tribal Treasurer
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

For questions and/or to gather more detailed information about monetary donations, please call the Hopi Tribal Government at (928) 734-3121 or visit the website at www.hopi-nsn.gov.

Organizations or individuals who wish to donate to the Hopi Tribe, but are only permitted to donate to a non-profit organization, please send those donations directly to;

The Hopi Foundation
P.O. Box 301
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

For questions or inquiries about tax deductible charitable contributions, please follow-up with the Hopi Foundation which is a tax-exempt organization at (928) 734-2380 and/or visiting their website for more information at www.hopifoundation.org

All physical donations for all villages, including shipments or parcels intended for the Hopi Tribe or the Hopi Foundation, which may include but are not limited to packaged goods, tools, supplies, and non-perishable food items, should be directed to the Hopi Emergency Response Team.

All ITEMS MUST;

- Be properly sanitized before sending to the Hopi Emergency Response Team (HERT) staging area for inspection and screening.
- Be unopened AND in their original packaging

At this time, the **HERT Incident Command Center WILL NOT ACCEPT;**

- Opened items that are not in their original packaging,
- Perishable Foods – (only packaged non-perishable items with a stable shelf life)
- Loose or used clothing, or unpackaged blankets

All items meant for Hopi-wide emergency response distribution shall be inspected and screened, prior to their acceptance or distribution, at the **HERT Incident Command Center** located at;

Hopi Veterans Memorial Center (HVMC)
Highway 264 between milepost 375 and 376
Kykotsmovi, AZ

Hopi Emergency Response Team and the Emergency Operations Center

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Weekdays From 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MST	(928) 734-3661 and (928) 734-3663
After hours and Weekends – after 5:00 p.m. MST	(928) 205-7295
Indian Health Services Hotline	(928) 737-6188

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For questions of more information, please call the The Hopi Tribe;

Office of the Chairman at (928) 734-3102, OR Office of the Vice Chairman (928) 734-3113.