



March 19, 2020

Puyallup Tribal Council declares public health emergency

Action follows numerous precautions by Tribe including temporary closure of I-5 and Fife casinos, curtailing of government operations to essential services

The Puyallup Tribe's governing body declared a public health emergency on March 18 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Passage was anticipated in an announcement March 16, when the Puyallup Tribal Council voted to shut down the Tribe's two Emerald Queen Casino operations, Fife and I-5. The resolution limits public access to Tribal government buildings and offices for two weeks, by requiring scheduled appointments. Essential and emergency functions are exempt. Employees of government, business and entity operations are required to work remotely as much as possible.

The resolution also encourages all Tribal members and employees to practice recommended pre-emptive measures to minimize, prevent and reduce exposure to and from COVID-19 in order to protect Elders, Tribal members and the community.

"We are in this together," Tribal Council said in a statement March 16. "Let's remember our shared values. Please look out for one another and remember that social distancing does not mean social isolation. Call your loved ones. Stay informed. Stay together – even when we're apart."

About the Puyallup Tribe of Indians

The Puyallup People have lived along the shores of what is now called Puget Sound since time immemorial. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is a sovereign nation of more than 5,000 members and one of the largest employers in Pierce County. It serves its people and neighbors with generosity and is committed to building a sustainable way of life for future generations. [Learn more about the Puyallup Tribe.](#)

About the Puyallup Tribal Council

The Puyallup Tribal Council is the elected governing body of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The council consists of Chairman David Z. Bean, Vice Chairman Bill Sterud, Sylvia Miller, Tim Reynon, Annette Bryan, James Rideout and Anna Bean.

###

Contact:

Lisa Pemberton, Content Manager, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, (253) 331-5453;

lisa.pemberton@puyalluptribe-nsn.gov

Michael Thompson, Communications Director, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, (253) 382-6200;

michael.thompson@puyalluptribe-nsn.gov