



**Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
For Immediate Release**

THE PAWNEE NATION HEREBY DECLARES A *STATE OF EMERGENCY* FOR THE PAWNEE NATION AND HAS ALREADY ACTIVATED THEIR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) DUE TO THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CORONAVIRUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISING NECESSARY EMERGENCY POWERS, SETTING UP AN EMERGENCY FUND ACCOUNT AND FOR EXPENDING LOCAL RESOURCES, AND FOR REQUESTING AID, RELIEF PROGRAMS, AND FUNDING THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THIS ACTION WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL SUCH TIME THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK HAS BEEN CONTAINED AND THE PAWNEE PEOPLE MAY RESUME THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES.

Pawnee, Oklahoma, March 23, 2020 – Effective, 5:00 p.m. March 23, 2020. *The Pawnee Business Council does hereby find and declare that conditions affecting public health, welfare, education, and employment safety has arisen with and throughout the jurisdiction of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

As such, the Pawnee Business Council will be approving an “*Emergency Declaration*” at their meeting on March 24, 2020. As a result of the Covid-19 virus, the Pawnee Nation will be continuing the practice of isolation that began on March 13, 2020, when the Emergency Operations Center was activated at a Level II. While employees who are a part of the Emergency Operations Center will continue to work and other selected employees have been asked to work remotely when possible, essential services will continue with modifications. Tribal members needing assistance during this time may call 918-762-3621 and then the extension of the program that they need to talk to or to leave a message, so that a call may be returned.

As of March 24, 2020, employees will be able to utilize any Paid Time Off (PTO) leave they may have accrued, and after that leave is exhausted, then they will be furloughed and become eligible for unemployment.

The Nation will be tracking all hours that are worked by the members of the Emergency Operations Center and be applying for reimbursement for employees if we are eligible to do so.

The Nation will re-assess the situation on April 5, 2020, by 5 p.m. and post to the Pawnee Nation website and social media the outcome of the re-assessment. We pray that conditions may improve so that the Pawnee People will continue to take care of their families as the Pawnee Nation continues to deal with the effects of this viral pandemic. May Atius keep our people safe and healthy.

Point of contact during this incident: Muriel Robedeaux, Executive Director 918-762-3621, Ext. 111.

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Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
www.pawneenation.org

Official announcement from the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma