

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020

AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY; AUTHORIZING NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT MEETINGS AND WORKSESSIONS THROUGH TELECOMMUNICATION METHODS; AUTHORIZING COUNCIL DELEGATES TO ATTEND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORKSESSIONS THROUGH TELECONFERENCING; APPROVING A SIXTY (60) DAY WAIVER OF TITLE TWO PROVISIONS REQUIRING DELEGATES TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT MEETINGS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Navajo Nation shall have all powers to regulate the conduct of its members and have the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 (D) and (E).
- C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §164 (A)(16) "[m]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council."

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. In light of the Navajo Nation's Emergency Declaration, attached as **Exhibit A**, regarding the outbreak of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, it is imperative that the Navajo Nation Council take precautionary measures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 to the Navajo public and Navajo Nation employees.
- B. COVID-19 which has shown a high mortality rate (49% in critical cases) among elders with preexisting conditions is currently spreading in the states surrounding the Navajo Nation; the Navajo Nation's health care capacity to respond COVID-19 will

be threatened if preventive measures and precautions are not implemented. **Exhibit B.**

- C. To mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council has advised the Legislative Branch to consider attending meetings/events/training by using telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and videoing instead of in-person attendance. **Exhibit C.**
- D. The Speaker has already implemented travel restrictions on Legislative Branch employees and required Legislative Branch programs to develop Remote Work Plans for their departments. **Exhibit D.**
- E. To prevent and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the Navajo Nation Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Navajo public and Navajo Nation employees to temporarily allow Navajo Nation Council Delegates to conduct and attend Council and Standing Committee meetings and subcommittee meetings using telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing, in certain situations.

SECTION THREE. WAIVING PROVISIONS OF 2 N.N.C. §§ 106, 167, 183, and 189 and NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER AND STANDING COMMITTEE RULES

- A. The Navajo Nation Council waives provisions of 2 N.N.C. §§ 106, 167, 183 and 189, Rule 22 (F) of the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order, and Rule 21 (D) of the Standing Committee Rules of Order that would restrict or prohibit Council Delegates from conducting and attending Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, and work sessions through telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
- B. The waivers set forth above shall expire sixty (60) days after Speaker's 2 N.N.C. § 221 certification of this legislation, unless otherwise determined through resolution of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

SECTION FOUR. APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS BY TELECOMMUNICATION METHODS

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves and allows Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions to be conducted through telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.

- B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves and allows Navajo Nation Council Delegates to attend Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions through telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
- C. Council Delegates compensation for attendance at Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions conducted through telecommunication methods shall be the same as for in-person attendance, except that no mileage or other travel expenses shall be paid or reimbursed for telecommunication attendance.
- D. Council Delegates attendance at Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions through telecommunication methods shall count the same towards quorum requirements as in-person attendance,
- E. Navajo Nation Council meetings through telecommunication methods shall be conducted pursuant to procedures instituted by the Speaker pursuant to his authorities set forth at Rule 4 (C) of the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order.
- F. Navajo Nation Standing Committee meetings through telecommunication methods shall be conducted pursuant to procedures instituted by the Chairperson of the respective Committee pursuant to their authorities set forth at Rule 4 (D) of the Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee Rules of Order.
- G. Plans for Navajo Nation commission and board meetings through telecommunication methods shall be approved by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. The provisions of this Act shall become effective when certified by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A).
- B. The provisions of this Act shall expire sixty (60) days after Speaker's 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A) certification, unless otherwise determined through resolution of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 19 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 16th day of March 2020.



Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

3.16.2020

DATE

Motion: Honorable Wilson Stewart, Jr.

Second: Honorable Pernell Halona

Speaker Seth Damon not voting



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2020

**Navajo Nation declares Public Health
State of Emergency for COVID-19 coronavirus**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer declared a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation in response to the growing spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, also known as "Diko Ntsaaigili-Náhást'éits'áadah" in the Navajo language. There are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Navajo Nation, however the declaration is a proactive measure to help ensure the Navajo Nation's preparedness and the health and well-being of the Navajo people.

At the request of President Nez and Vice President Lizer, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management held a meeting on Wednesday to consider the growing concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus. The commission voted 4-0 in support of the declaration.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also issued travel restrictions on Wednesday for all Executive Branch employees, which requires all divisions, departments, and programs to restrict all off-Nation work-related travel until further notice. They also directed employees who recently traveled to "hot spots," or areas known to have confirmed cases of the virus, to self-quarantine for approximately 14 days. All Executive Branch offices are either canceling or postponing conferences, summits, and events that draw large numbers of people from off the Navajo Nation.

"For several weeks, we've been planning and preparing while we monitor the growing spread of the virus. We have a large population of Navajo people that reside in many states including Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, which now have confirmed cases, so it's very important that we remain proactive and continue to provide outreach and information to the public. We don't want to create a sense of panic, but we want our Navajo people to plan and prepare in the event that the virus reaches our communities," said President Nez.

On Feb. 27, President Nez and Vice President Lizer established the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team to monitor, plan, prepare, and coordinate precautionary efforts to address the COVID-19 coronavirus. A Health Command Operations Center is also established within the Department of Health, which is made up of five function areas including Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.



President Nez and Vice President Lizer sent letters to members of Congress and the White House to ensure that Indian Health Service facilities and other hospitals receive financial support and resources from the recent \$8.3 billion appropriations by Congress and President Trump to fight the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. In late February, President Nez also sent a letter to Indian Health Service requesting a mandatory 45-day quarantine for IHS commissioned officers that are deployed to high-risk areas and return to the Navajo Nation. IHS notified President Nez that they are complying with President Nez's request to ensure the well-being of IHS commissioned officers before returning them to service on the Nation.

As another proactive measure, the Division of Human Resources is also tasked with finalizing an "alternative work schedule" and a "tele-work policy" for Navajo Nation employees. In addition, the Community Health Representatives program and the Health Education Program are going door-to-door to educate and inform Navajo individuals with underlying conditions, including heart, lung, kidney disease, diabetes, and conditions that suppress the immune system. They also provide information and presentations at chapters, schools, and various worksites.

"Our command center officials and health professionals are doing everything they can to inform the public and to provide as much education as possible, but it's also up to us as individuals to do our part to prevent the spread of the virus in our communities. Please continue to check on your elders to ensure their well-being and to take precautionary measures to reduce risks," said Vice President Lizer. "With many students on spring break, it's imperative that parents keep their children safe by practicing good hygiene to prevent exposure to the virus."

Symptoms of the COVID-19 coronavirus include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It can take up to 14 days for the virus to become active after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine available for the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The public is encouraged to take the following precautionary actions to help prevent the spread of the virus:

- Washing your hands with warm water and soap often for at least 20 seconds
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Staying home if you are sick
- Avoiding contact with people with sicknesses/symptoms
- Cleaning/sanitizing common areas and "high-touch" surfaces
- Avoiding large gatherings and crowds

The coronavirus has the potential to become severe. Severe cases can also lead to pneumonia, kidney failure, and in some cases, death. The most vulnerable are the elders, young children, and those with compromised immune systems. Health care officials also advise that if a person has shortness of breath or has difficulty breathing, to report to your local physician and/or emergency room hospital and to call ahead to allow the facility to prepare for your arrival.

"Our Navajo people are strong and resilient. In times like this, we need to remember the challenges that our elders overcame. We will continue to pray for the safety and well-being for all people as we continue to be proactive. We will persevere through this," added President Nez.

A list of established hotlines for the public to call with questions or concerns includes:

- Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center: (928) 871-7014
- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Service Unit: 1 (800) 242-9271
- Gallup Indian Medical Center Service Unit: (505) 726-5888
- Tséhootsooi Medical Center: 1 (800) 232-4342
- Winslow Indian Health Care Center: (928) 289-8143
- Sage Memorial Hospital: (928) 755-4500
- Tuba City Regional Health Care: (928) 283-2501

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will hold its third radio forum on Thursday, March 12th beginning at 6:00 p.m. on KTNN 660AM and 101.5FM to provide information and receive questions. The Navajo Nation Department of Health is offering to provide presentations to communities and other groups. Please send requests by email to coronavirus.info@nndoh.org or visit their website for additional information: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue to coordinate with the county, state, and federal officials to monitor the evolving impacts of the coronavirus and continue to encourage the public to take precautions.

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For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM-20-03-11

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ("COVID-19") IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881 the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, authorizing it to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 883 (A) and (C) the Commission is empowered to coordinate immediate emergency and disaster relief services with Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B), (2) the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. The nature of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") is such that it has spread and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations within the U.S. and regionally; and
5. In the U.S. the number of positive and presumptive positive cases have grown, with the rise in COVID-19 confirmed cases in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado; and
6. No confirmed COVID-19 cases have been verified on the Navajo Nation and area Public Health Services are closely monitoring the situation; and
7. The Navajo Nation, in collaboration with various entities such as the U.S. Public Health Services Area Offices (Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix), CDC, state departments of health, Navajo Nation 638 Tribal Health Organizations and various other multi-agency groups, have organized an incident command approach to mitigate COVID-19 transmission on the Navajo Nation; and
8. In partial response to addressing the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, a Navajo Department of Health ("NDOH") Command Operations Center has been established with an infrastructure to maintain situational awareness, conduct daily communication briefings among NDOH and key collaborative partners and, disseminate information to the public; and

9. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center.
10. Locally, it is acknowledged and understood that the threat of transmission of COVID-19 needs to be mitigated to reduce risk of exposure to the Navajo People and the resultant consequential public health impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation.
2. To address increased concerns of potential public health impacts due to risk and exposure to the COVID-19, especially to our older population, the Navajo Nation must encourage independent responsibility and action by the Navajo People in practicing recommended preemptive measures to minimize, prevent and reduce risk of exposure to and from the COVID-19.
3. The Navajo Nation population receives timely, consistent and correct information needed on the COVID-19 on preventive measures against contracting and spread of the virus, signs, symptoms and contacting local hospitals and clinics for reporting.
4. In declaring the Public Health State of Emergency, all Navajo Nation Branches, programs, departments will comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies forthcoming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
5. The needs of the Navajo Nation are to be addressed in a manner so as to provide the necessary resources required to address said Declared Public Health State of Emergency. This includes, but not limited to, resources of personnel, medical supplies and equipment, monetary funding, and other resources as may be required to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of the Navajo Nation.


CERTIFICATION


I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 4 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 11th day of March 2020.


Herman Shorty, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion by: Dicky Bain
Second by: Ben Bennett

CONCURRENCE:


Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Navajo Nation Elected Leadership
Navajo Nation Employees
Navajo Nation Tribal Citizens

FROM: 
David Nez, Incident Commander
Health Command Operations Center

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: Self Monitoring Advisory

On March 11, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer declared a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation in response to the growing spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (called "COVID-19" for short), also known as "Diko Ntsaaígíí-Náhást'éíts'áadah" in the Navajo language. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation; however, the declaration and the Navajo Department of Health – Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) is taking proactive measures to help ensure the Navajo Nation's preparedness and the health and well-being of the Navajo people.

COVID-19 is currently spreading in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, areas within or close proximity of the Navajo Nation. COVID-19 has shown a high mortality rate (49% among critical cases) among elders with preexisting conditions in other countries.¹ On Navajo, we have high rates of diabetes, hypertension, and other comorbid conditions among all ages. The spread of the COVID-19 possesses risks for healthcare workers, Navajo Nation citizens, particularly Navajo elders and individuals with underlying conditions, including heart disease, lung disease, cancer, kidney disease, diabetes, and conditions that suppress the immune system. The Navajo Nation's health care capacity to respond to COVID-19 is threatened if precautions are not considered.

The goal of the advisory is to prevent and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Therefore, the HCOC is issuing the following self-monitoring advisory.

Navajo Nation citizens, employees, and elected officials, who recently returned from COVID-19 hotspot locations² are advised to take precautionary steps to control and prevent the growing spread of the virus. Due to the fact that COVID-19 is highly transmittable

¹ JAMA Network. Characteristics of and Important Lessons from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in China: Summary of a Report of 72 314 Cases from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762130>. Published February 24, 2020. Accessed March 12, 2020.

² A hotspot location follows the CDC Risk Assessment Levels from "limited community spread" which includes states with 1-5 reported cases to "widespread" which includes 200 or more reported cases.

EXHIBIT

B



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among individuals with mild to severe symptoms and some with asymptomatic (with little or no symptoms) infection in communities across the US, individuals traveling to hotspots meet the definition of exposure to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic (showing symptoms); therefore, we are mandating employees and elected officials stay home or self-monitor for a period of approximately (14) fourteen calendar days from the time they return to the Navajo Nation. The self-monitor advisory are precautionary measures to help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease. The self-monitoring advisory will be no longer be in effect after 14 days if the individual is not showing symptoms of COVID-19.

Specifically, Navajo Nation employees, elected officials and citizens must obey the following guidelines, even if they believe they are not currently infected with COVID-19:

Monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms:

- If possible, take your temperature twice a day with a thermometer. A fever is typically a temperature of 100.4°F or higher. If you do not have a thermometer, symptoms of illness may include feeling unusually hot for no reason, having chills, or having the sweats.
- Watch for fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough and sneeze.
- Call your health care provider if symptoms worsen. Call ahead before you go to your doctor's office or an emergency room.

Stay home except to get medical care:

- **STAY HOME:** People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 can isolate at home during their illness. It would be best to restrict activities outside your house, except for getting medical care.
- **AVOID PUBLIC AREAS:** Do not go to work, school, or public areas (such as restaurants, grocery stores, chapter houses, senior centers, or basketball games).
- **AVOID PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Avoid using public transportation.
- **AVOID VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:** Avoid elders, children, and people who have a severe chronic medical condition, such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home:

- **STAY AWAY FROM OTHERS:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
- **LIMIT CONTACT WITH PETS, ANIMALS, & LIVESTOCK:** You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people infected with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.
- Have another family member care for your livestock while you are sick. Avoid petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food with pets. Wear a face mask to keep the virus from spreading and wash hands before and after if you interact with your livestock and pets.

Discontinuing self-isolation and self- quarantine:

- **STAY AT HOME UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE:** Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low.
- **TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER:** The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local departments.

For more information regarding self-monitoring, please contact the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014 or visit <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

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Legislative Branch
Judicial Branch



24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER



HONORABLE SETH DAMON

Speaker, 24th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Navajo Nation Legislative Branch

FROM:


Seth Damon, Speaker
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: March 5, 2020

SUBJECT: **NAVAJO NATION TRAVEL ADVISORY – COVID-19**

This memorandum serves as a travel advisory to the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. Continuity of government operations is vital as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situations. In doing so due diligence will be required when deciding to go on travel for official business. When approving official travel, risk factors must be considered in order to maintain the overall health and safety of the Navajo Nation. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we ask the Legislative Branch seriously consider the following:

- Attending meetings/events/training by using teleconference calls/videos, rather than traveling off the Navajo Nation.
- Staying home or working from home, if you experience symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty of breathing.
- Avoiding direct contact with people who have symptoms/sickness
- Cleaning/sanitizing your workplace/office routinely

If you have shortness of breath or have difficulty breathing, please report to your local physician and/or emergency room.

The Legislative Branch is working with the Executive and Judicial Branches on monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will provide updates as needed. For the latest update on the COVID-19, please visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Senior Policy Advisor Asa Washines at (928) 871-7160. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER



HONORABLE SETH DAMON

Speaker, 24th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Navajo Nation Legislative Branch

FROM: 
Seth Damon, Speaker
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: March 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch Travel Restrictions and Remote Work Plan Directive

This memorandum shall serve as notification of restrictions on Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch program travel as a preemptive measure towards mitigating the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Travel for official Legislative Branch business is hereby restricted to on-reservation destinations effective immediately. This restriction will affect all members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, political appointees, and all program employees.

All members of the Legislative Branch returning from cities that report active cases of COVID-19 are expected to closely self-monitor their bodies for elevated temperatures and flu-like symptoms. We would like to remind all council delegates and employees that the normal body temperature for adults is generally 98.6°F. We advise anyone returning from COVID-19 hot zones to avoid contact with elders and to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days on evidence of coronavirus symptoms.

While we understand the importance of engaging in-person with agency and program partners at the local, state, and federal levels, we are confident this preemptive measure is in the greater health interests of all Legislative Branch employees and the Navajo Nation as a whole.

In addition to this restriction on travel, I am directing all program managers to begin developing a remote work plan (RWP) for their respective departments. The RWP will be

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instrumental to the continuation of essential Legislative Branch services in the event that closing Legislative Branch program offices becomes necessary to protect public health. Preliminary draft RWPs will be due by the close-of-business on Friday, March 13, 2020.

During this restriction, Office of the Speaker Information Technology (IT) staff will be able to assist programs with tele- and videoconferencing setup. They will also be available to facilitate Microsoft Sharepoint access to enable online collaboration for programs, should the need arise.

Your compliance with this notice and the directive (for program managers) is expected and appreciated in the interest of reducing the overall likelihood of exposure to COVID-19. This restriction will remain in place until further notice. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis if and only if travel is not to a locale with reported cases and if a suitable alternative means of communication does not exist for the official business being conducted.

Please call or email Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso if you have questions regarding this memorandum at (928) 871-7160 or ltso@navajo-nsn.gov. Thank you.

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