



Samish Indian Nation
OF WASHINGTON

March 24, 2020

STAY HOME, PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

Fellow Citizens of Samish Indian Nation:

As many of you are aware, the COVID-19 has spread to multiple states around the nation, and our surrounding communities have seen a significant increase in confirmed cases. As of today, there are more than 55,000 confirmed and probable cases in the United States, and WA State has the second highest number of deaths in the us. There are also as of today more than 2100 cases in Canada, with half the deaths in Canada occurring in British Columbia. These are unprecedented times and pose an enormous risk not only to our community but also our tribal economy and way of life.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings. Preventing the further spread of this disease depends on every person in our community reducing their interactions with others, especially those beyond their immediate household. Our community members who have compromised immune systems; are pregnant; have a medical condition such as diabetes, heart disease or lung disease; or are over 60 are especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

Without a reservation based community yet, and with the distance between our scattered citizenry, the challenges to ensure our people are safe protected loom heavy. As a result, I am issuing the following request to all our citizens to help us ensure we all survive:

EFFECTIVE 5 pm, MARCH 24, 2020 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL CITIZENS AND FAMILY OF SAMISH INDIAN NATION ARE HEREBY REQUESTED TO:

1. **STAY HOME**, except for certain safe activities listed below.
2. **KEEP DISTANCE FROM ANYONE NOT LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD.** Maintain at least 6 feet from other individuals who are not living in your home.
3. **WASH HANDS**, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, do not hug or shake hands. When hand washing is not possible, use hand sanitizer.
4. **COVER COUGHES & SNEEZES**, preferably with tissue, immediately throw it away and wash or sanitize your hands.

Safe activities include:

- Refilling prescriptions for medicine or seeing a doctor.
- Acquiring necessary services or supplies for you, your family or household members, such as getting food and supplies necessary for staying home.
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running, keeping at least 6 feet of distance between others. Do not touch public structures such as picnic tables, playground equipment.
- Caring for elders, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable persons in another household.
- Going to work for essential business services that cannot be done from home.

These are challenging times, and I know the impact of COVID-19 is being felt throughout our community. I am very concerned for all our citizens, especially those who are sick or at higher risk of severe illness if infected, as well as those who have either lost, or are at risk of losing their job or business. I am confident, however, that by coming together as a community and taking reasonable measures to protect one another, we will emerge from this period of time with the same resiliency and strength we have called upon in times of crisis in the past.

Sincerely,


Thomas D. Wooten

Chairman