



ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES

PRESS RELEASE

On the afternoon of Wednesday March 18, 2020, the Round Valley Indian Tribes declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution, Tribal President, James A. Russ, and Tribal Council made the decision to enact the emergency declaration in the interest of the health and well-being of our tribe and community members. By authority, the Round Valley Indian Tribes is implementing several preliminary steps in reducing any potential exposure risks to a minimum. Tribal Leadership fully supports and are engaged in these efforts.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes is acutely aware that the 1st confirmed case of COVID-19 in Mendocino County has been announced as of this press release; the Mendocino County Public Health Department has issued strong guidance for social distancing and community gatherings. In response to this recent information, the Round Valley Indian Tribes has decided to close all tribal offices and facilities to the public officially starting today, and have postponed all meetings and events until further notice.

The Tribe continues to work closely with the health care community in Mendocino County, the California Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to try and identify possible cases, as well as maintaining a strong response to help prevent the risk of exposure and spread.

The RVIT Tribal Leadership is provided daily status updates on response efforts by Mendocino County Public Health Department and shall implement the directives based on the most up to date information. Those efforts and objectives include regular updates to RVIT tribal members as conditions change, in order to keep the tribal community informed.

As a reminder:

The best way to reduce your risk of becoming infected with, or spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus, is to practice Basic Precautions, and we encourage everyone to:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available
- Avoid eating, or touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay away from people who are visibly sick
- Always cover your coughs and sneezes using a tissue, or the crook of your elbow
- People who are sick should stay home from work, schools or public places until they are well
- If you have any of the following symptoms, please contact your regular primary care provider, and let them know if you have been around someone who had COVID-19 coronavirus:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing

Please take time to make sure our Tribal Elders are warm and have regular meals and clean drinking water and are kept safe in this time of great need and concern. This is a fast-moving event, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes is asking that we take every necessary step and do what we can to protect our elders and vulnerable population, as well as our tribal and community members. We thank you for your patience.

The Mendocino County Health Department has a website with the latest guidance and recommendations on COVID-19 coronavirus. All Emergency Needs should continue to be directed to the 911 Emergency System.