



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE CROW TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

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The Crow Tribe is faced with an unprecedented threat to the public health from a communicable disease identified as the SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 known as the “NOVEL CORONAVIRUS”, an infectious disease affecting the respiratory systems of humans with flu-like symptoms. The virus is highly dangerous to elderly persons and those persons with compromised immune systems. It has also been determined that those individuals with healthy immune systems including young persons are not immune as well. The scientific and medical community continue to learn from this virus on a daily basis. It is therefore important that the Crow people have the most current and accurate information in order to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

From the current data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), it is known that the virus is highly contagious from person-to-person and from commonly used surfaces. As of this date, there is no known cure for this virus and the United States overall is suffering from overwhelmed medical facilities, lack of supplies and equipment, while the infection rate grows exponentially, and the death rate climbs as the global pandemic takes hold.

However, it is also known that there are successful practices to combat the virus. The following are very important:

- ❖ **Stay at home except for necessary purposes such as medical needs or to get groceries**
- ❖ **Self-quarantine for 14 days if you come into contact with an infected person or were recently in a known infected area**
- ❖ **Social distancing at 6 feet from others**
- ❖ **Frequent washing of your hands**
- ❖ **Avoid touching your face (eyes, face and mouth)**
- ❖ **Ensure our elderly and those with compromised immune systems are at home safe**
- ❖ **Abide by stay-at-home orders and curfew regulations**
- ❖ **Healthy persons should endeavor to assist our elders and persons with compromised immune services to deliver their groceries and medication for them.**

These practices will help prevent community spread as other areas in Montana have seen stark increases in infection from not following the guidelines. For the Crow Reservation, infection rates can be avoided with these practices.

While the Crow Tribe does not have any confirmed cases within its borders as of the date of this press release, we must conduct ourselves as if the infection is here already. The best defense to this threat is to go on the offense and follow the recommendations. We must keep in mind that we are preparing for battle against an invisible enemy. This enemy does not discriminate and will target our most vulnerable loved ones.

While the Crow Tribe is bracing for this outbreak to sweep through the reservation, the Crow Tribal Legislature is committed to working with all available resources to ensure that the Crow People receive resources and necessary medical care. As of Friday, March 17, 2020, the federal government authorized 80 Billion to Indian Country for relief to Tribes known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. For Indian Country, the CARES Act seeks to ensure Indian tribes and tribally owned businesses have critical relief, including equal access to federal COVID-19 economic recovery resources. The Legislature is committed to ensuring resource information is provided regularly.

Please visit the following websites for daily updates: www.CDC.Gov, or <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>.

And finally, if you have any symptoms of the virus such as fever, dry cough, body aches, or difficulty breathing, follow the guidelines of the Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital Covid-19 Helpline: 406-638-3527 or 406-638-3500.

The following is the contact information for the Crow Tribe ICS Response team: email: incidentresponse@Crow-nsn.gov or (406) 679-5314.

At this time, the Crow Tribal Legislature extends its support and encourages everyone to follow all implement regulations and guidelines at this time. Keep yourselves safe from infection and be very mindful about limiting you contact with the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

The Legislative Branch office will remain closed until further notice but you may visit our website at www.ctlb.org for legislation or public notices. In addition, email addresses for your district Legislator may found at www.ctlb.org/legislators or emailing schandler@ctlb.org.