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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN CARLOS COUNCIL ADOPTS ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR COVID-19

March 24, 2020

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San Carlos Apache Reservation – Today, the San Carlos Apache Tribe announced the adoption of additional measures to combat the pandemic outbreak of the new coronavirus known as Covid-19, pursuant to San Carlos Council Resolution Nos. MR-20-039 and MR-20-040.

In Arizona, there are now 235 positive cases as of March 23, 2020. This is about four times the number reported on March 20, in some 3 to 4 days. In addition, on March 23, 352 were tested and 309 tested negative. 2 have tested positive in the Town of Pima, Graham County. So far, 3 people have died.

Maricopa has the largest number of cases with 139 reported. Navajao Nation has the second largest outbreak with 29 cases reported. These were due to an out-of-state non-Indian who was guided through the Navajo Nation and the guide then became infected, and a church service, also led by a non-member, which resulted in many members of the congregation getting sick.

Chairman Terry Rambler said, *“Even though the Tribe thankfully does not have one positive patient as of yet, we have to remain vigilant. Given the rate of the outbreak, we can expect our members to be affected soon. The Council did adopt some tough measures, and these will be hard for some. But, if we follow the guidelines and social distancing, we will be able to keep this outbreak under control.”*

Kevin Cassadore, Chair of the Tribe’s Emergency Response Commission (“TERC”), composed of the Tribe’s top managers and healthcare professionals, and Kailyle Moses, the TERC Vice Chair and Chief of SCAFD/EMS said, *“The TERC has*

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been meeting 24/7 to develop the best plan possible. We received input from all of the Tribe's top managers, healthcare workers and first responders. Our plan is one that the Tribe's members can depend upon, one that will adapt to the changing nature of this most potentially deadly outbreak."

Victoria Began, CEO for the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation said, *"When we started in 2015, we instituted an emergency operations and disaster plans. Now we have a Covid-19 plan, and we are well ahead of the curve. We have the capacity for up to 50 patients. Our hospital is ready. We have 22 doctors on campus and another 58 doctors who rotate through regularly, 102 registered nurses and 7 dentists. And, with other resources we can handle up to another 140 or more patients. Everybody should rest assured that our facility meets the national standards for quarantine and isolation."*

David Reede, Executive Director of the Tribe's Department of Health & Human Services said, *"Our team at DHHS continues to track this outbreak. Our Public Health Nurses have been working with those who have been tested to make sure they remain isolated and self-quarantined until their results come in. So far, all the results have been negative. However, we are ready to work with those who may come down with mild to moderate symptoms."*

Council Resolution No. MR-20-039, supplements Resolution Nos. MR-20-032, 033 and 038. The measures were proposed by the TERC and include:

1. Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") prevention guidelines were adopted. The TERC was provided the authority to adopt any other directive as may be issued by the Governor of the State of Arizona or agencies of the federal government. As to crowd size, the CDC guidelines limit gatherings at any event to no more than ten (10) people. Most religious organizations and churches throughout the State of Arizona have already suspended services, as a result, encouraging congregations to have services through social media and live video streaming. While these are guidelines, there may come a time when the TERC may require crowd size limits of 10 or less.
2. The TERC was given the authority to make a stay-at-home order or a curfew with an exception for people who have to work.
3. Local vendors selling goods or food will now have to follow strict guidelines to ensure sanitizing workers, goods and foods. In addition, permits and licenses were suspended for non-member vendors, not otherwise married to or otherwise within the immediate family of a member of the Tribe.

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4. The TERC was provided a budget of \$438,000 for necessary supplies.
5. The SCAHC plan for bed expansion was approved.
6. All permits for access, recreation, gaming and fishing for non-members were suspended.
7. Any person returning from out-of-state travel and certain hotspots within Arizona shall provide notice of their return to a Public Health Nurse. For this purpose a hotline was established – (928) 961-1940. Similarly, commuters from off the Reservation, especially those from Maricopa and Pinal County, will also have to identify and subject themselves to a health assessment.
8. Anyone violating a direction to either self-quarantine or otherwise test for Covid-19, are now required to do so. If anyone does not, they may be subject to penalties. In addition, the Tribe’s Attorney General was directed to meet with the Council’s Law & Order Committee to develop stiffer penalties for false reporting, public nuisance and interference with governmental operations.
9. The TERC received authority to commandeer and task employees or supplies from any agency of the Tribe, as may be required by TERC.
10. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, or their designees, the Treasurer, Executive Director of the Tribe’s Human Resources, and the Chief Executive Officer and Financial Officers of the Tribe’s economic development enterprises were directed to coordinate and develop a financial plan for the next 120 days, and submit that plan to the Council within ten business days.

The second act of the Council on March 23, 2020 (Res. No. MR-20-040), approved certain measures for the Tribal Court, hearings and extended deadlines. Most important, speedy trial rights and any criminal matter that is set to expire under the Tribe’s statute of limitations will instead be temporarily tolled until the Tribe’s state of emergency is lifted. In other words, anyone committing a criminal major act who gets arrested may not be released from the Tribe’s Detention Center until after the outbreak is ended. Additionally, if a prior criminal incident is scheduled to expire within three months of passage of the resolution, the statute of limitations will be tolled until the stay is lifted, and the Tribe will have six months thereafter to consider filing criminal charges.

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Other measures previously approved by the Council included closing Apache Gold, Apache Sky, restaurants, and establishing certain buildings as potential secondary hospital facilities (*see* Res. No. MR-20-032) and a Declaration of a State of Emergency over the incidence of Covid-19, together with suspending travel for government business, and providing TERC with certain authorities (*see* Res. No. MR-20-033).

Covid-19 symptoms include a fever, dry cough, vomiting and diarrhea, fatigue and body ache. But, symptoms can lead to respiratory illness, such as pneumonia, and death. If you think you have these symptoms, you can call the Hospital, which has a 24-hour hotline with a nurse standing by at 1-833-361-9550. Anyone can confidentially call this number and report any information or questions related to Covid-19.

According to the CDC, the best way to avoid Covid-19 is to stay home. If you go out, keep six feet or more away from others. Do not touch others. Avoid groups over 10 people. Avoid eating at bars, restaurants or food courts. Grab and go instead. Avoid shopping trips and social visits. Do not visit nursing homes or long-term care facilities, unless you have been asked to provide critical assistance. Trips out of the house should only be to seek medical care or for essential household shopping, such as groceries, the pharmacy, fuel, woods and cleaning products.

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