



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

PUBLIC SAFETY ORDER NO. 6

*Amended** December 11, 2020

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 13, 2020 pursuant to their authority in T-10-61 and T-064-20; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued Public Safety Order No. 1 on March 23, 2020 ordering all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments to “Stay Home, Stay Healthy,” subject to certain limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued Public Safety Announcement No. 2 on March 25, 2020, which encouraged longhouses and churches to delay all spiritual ceremonial gatherings except for funerals, and confirmed that Yakama Members may still exercise Treaty-reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights for subsistence purposes, and for ceremonial use at places of residence with immediate family members subject to all existing Yakama Nation hunting and fishing seasons and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued Public Safety Order No. 3 on June 26, 2020, mandating that all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments wear a mask or face covering in public subject to the conditions detailed therein; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued Public Safety Order No. 4 on July 22, 2020, restricting social and religious gatherings involving individuals who reside in different households, and instituting safety mandates for funeral services; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued Public Safety Order No. 5 on August 27, 2020, which superseded Yakama Nation’s Public Safety Order No. 1 (“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order), Public Safety No. 2, and Public Safety Order No. 4, all in their entirety, and in their place loosened restrictions on social gatherings, funerals, and religious ceremonies provided that



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masks or facial coverings were worn and social distancing of at least 6 feet was observed at all times; and

***WHEREAS**, COVID-19 infections have continued to increase, with more than 192,413 total infections and 2,850 deaths in Washington State, 15,055 infections and 296 deaths in Yakima County, and 1,149 infections and 39 deaths within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments; and

WHEREAS, the rate of COVID-19 infections has greatly accelerated as a direct result of uncontrolled community spread, which has in turn heightened the risk of infection among our membership residing within the Yakama Reservation, off-Reservation trust allotments, and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee has determined that additional public health and community mitigation measures are necessary to reduce the pace and combat the local spread of COVID-19 to protect all individuals, especially those at increased risk of severe illness.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee, acting in accordance with T-10-61 and T-064-20, Public Safety Order No. 5 is suspended, and the following restrictions must be followed:

- *Indoor Social Gatherings* – Prohibited with people from outside your household. A household is defined as individuals residing in the same domicile.
- *Outdoor Social Gatherings* – Prohibited with people from outside your household.
- *Cultural and Religious Ceremonies* – Prohibited with people from outside your household.
- *Funerals* – Permitted subject to the following requirements:
 - Limit the notification of passing to a published death notice, and limit the obituary by omitting details of funeral arrangements.
 - Dressing service must only be open to immediate family not exceeding 10 individuals, and a viewing ceremony is not allowed unless the casket is closed. Pursuant to traditional teachings, children should not be allowed to attend the service, and elders and other individuals at a high risk for COVID-19 complications are urged not to attend.



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- Social distancing of at least 6 feet and mask wearing must be observed at all times. No handshakes or hugs.
- Following the dressing service, the family must proceed directly to the cemetery for immediate burial. Eliminating the usual ceremonial observations, including the giving of dirt, decreases the chance for exposure.
- Post-burial ceremonies, including giveaways, dinners, receptions rites, etc., must be postponed until the memorial service after the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended.
- *Governmental Offices* – Closed to the public without prior appointment, public service hours limited from 8:00am to 12:00pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and social distancing and wearing of masks or similar facial covering is mandatory at all times while inside any governmental building.
- *Yakama Nation Enterprises* – Need to work through their Board of Directors or Oversight Committee to determine if any greater restrictions than already in place are needed.
- *Fitness Facilities, Gyms, and Youth and Adult Sporting Activities* – Indoor and outdoor operations, activities, practices, and contests are prohibited.
- *Childcare Facilities* – No prohibitions, but health screening of children and mask wearing by all childcare providers is required, and physical distancing between children is encouraged where practical.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this Public Safety Order No. 6 is temporary, and will remain in effect for the next four (4) weeks *from the date of issuance or from the date of subsequent amendment*, at which time the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee will decide to either allow this order to lapse, or to continue and possibly expand the community mitigation measures stated herein if the pace of community spread does not slow, and COVID-19 infection and death rates do not stabilize.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, nothing herein shall operate to change Public Safety Order No. 3, which mandates that all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments wear a mask or face covering in public subject to the conditions detailed therein.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Yakama Nation does not waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our Sovereign Immunity, whether expressed or implied, by virtue of this declaration of emergency for any and all administrative or legal action

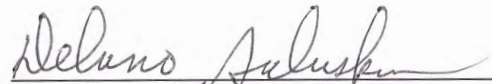


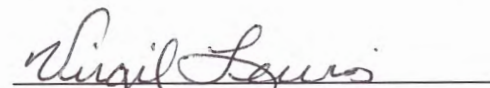
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which may arise directly or indirectly from the same, nor does the Yakama Nation waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our rights, privileges, remedies or services guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855.

DONE AND DATED this 11th day of December, 2020 by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee.


Delano Saluskin, Chairman
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council


Virgil Lewis, Sr., Vice-Chairman
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council


Athena Sanchey-Yallup, Secretary
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council