

# KARUK TRIBE HOUSING AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 1159 • 635 Jacobs Way  
Happy Camp, CA 96039  
Ph: (530) 493-1414 • Fax: (530) 493-1415



1836 Apsuun Street  
Yreka, CA 96097  
Ph: (530) 842-1644 • Fax: (530) 842-1646

**To:** All KTHA Tenants

**From:** Sara Spence, Executive Director, Karuk Tribe Housing Authority

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sara Spence', is written over the printed name.

**Date:** March 17, 2020

**RE:** Coronavirus

As public concern relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to grow, we are reaching out to our tenants to let you know what the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority (KTHA) is doing to respond to the potential threat it creates for our communities, tenants, and employees.

The developments in this situation are evolving quickly and our goal is to ensure everyone remains safe, especially our most sensitive community members (Elders and those with medical conditions).

Friday, March 12 the Tribal Council stopped all travel outside of the service area for non-essential purposes indefinitely to limit the potential for introducing the virus into our communities.

KTHA has taken the following additional steps to further limit exposure:

- All KTHA Offices and Facilities will be **CLOSED** to the public until further notice, ongoing developments will be explored during this time; this includes both Wellness Centers, both Fitness Centers, and the Yreka Computer Center.
- If you need assistance, you may contact KTHA by phone (Happy Camp 493-1414, Yreka 842-1644) or email during regular office hours of Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm, with lunch from 12-1pm.
- Maintenance will only be completing *emergent* Health and Safety work orders until further notice.
- If a work order must be completed in a unit with an Elder and/or those with medical conditions, personal protective equipment will be utilized, to lower any potential risk.
- All in-person meetings with KTHA staff (recertifications, inspections, etc.) scheduled for the next 30 days will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.

As most local schools have been closed for an extended duration, please ensure that you are prepared for how this, and potential extensions, will affect your family. During the school closures, it is recommended that children stay home and minimize social contact. Public Health officials recommend making alternative arrangements for childcare during the closure that will prevent leaving children in the care of elderly people who are more vulnerable to the illness. It is our understanding that internet providers will be working with the schools and affected parents to ensure internet access is made available for those who do not have it in order to complete the at

home assignments being provided, check with your school first. If they are unable to provide assistance, notify KTHA so we can help to locate other options.

If you are unable to report to work due to having no childcare alternatives during the school closure, or because you or someone in your home becomes infected, the Tribe's TANF program may be a resource to explore. Additionally, there are CA EDD (Unemployment, Disability, Family Leave) benefits that have been made available without waiting periods depending on your circumstances. If the Tribe or one of its entities is your employer, notify your immediate supervisor right away to see if other options are available.

We remind you that these are all **preventative measures** and we encourage everyone to remain calm. You can protect yourself and your family by practicing, promoting, and reinforcing the basic cleaning protocols outlined in the **included flyer**. We are actively practicing these in all Tribal facilities, and encourage you to do the same in your homes.

The overarching goal of all measures being taken locally, regionally, and globally is to limit the spread of the virus. It is our hope that by exercising an abundance of caution we will look back and be glad we did more, versus regret not doing enough, to protect each other during this very difficult time.

**Yootva** for your patience and cooperation as we all work together to do what we can in this situation!

# The Karuk Tribe Cares About YOU!



**Coronavirus  
spreads just like  
the flu.**



**Take the same steps to keep  
yourself healthy:**



**Wash your hands** often with soap and water **for at least 20 seconds**, especially before eating.



**Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.



**Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth.



**Stay home** when you are sick.



**Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



**Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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**Karuk Community Health Clinic**

64236 Second Avenue  
Post Office Box 316  
Happy Camp, CA 96039  
Phone: (530) 493-5257  
Fax: (530) 493-5270

# Karuk Tribe

**Administrative Office**

Phone: (530) 493-1600 • Fax: (530) 493-5322  
64236 Second Avenue • Post Office Box 1016 • Happy Camp, CA 96039

**Karuk Dental Clinic**

64236 Second Avenue  
Post Office Box 1016  
Happy Camp, CA 96039  
Phone: (530) 493-2201  
Fax: (530) 493-5364

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**\*\*For Immediate Release\*\***

March 12, 2020

The Karuk Tribe has evaluated the potential threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to our communities, membership and workforce. After closely monitoring current conditions, the Karuk Tribal Council is **restricting all travel for non-essential purposes** indefinitely. This means, if you have an activity that is booked but is not required by a grant funder, federal or state agency, and/or not necessary for an essential function of the Karuk Tribe, you are hereby directed to withdraw from any appointment, meeting, convention, and/or training scheduled. Please work with our fiscal staff to ensure minimal cancellation costs are incurred.

We understand that this may be inconvenient and short notice, however the data regarding the COVID19 virus is evolving quickly and the Karuk Tribe must ensure its most sensitive populations are protected. Travel and participating in any group activities exposes our staff to a higher risk of contracting the disease and possibly spreading it to the most vulnerable in our communities.

This is a **preventative measure** and it is important that we remain calm, go about our daily routines and not panic. We should all be using good judgment, and actively protecting ourselves, as we continue to fulfill our work obligations which include interacting with the public and clients we serve.

Some examples of things you can be doing to protect yourself and others include:

- Wash your hands (for 20 seconds) more often than usual, not just when using the restroom.
- Utilize hand sanitizer when washing your hands is not available.
- Cover your mouth with your elbow (or tissue) if you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, mouth).
- Utilize disinfectant cleaners/wipes throughout the day to sanitize your immediate work area AND equipment you come in contact with (office, desk, door knob, copier, phone, vehicle).
- Maintain a reasonable distance from others (six feet is recommended) when possible.
- Utilize face masks for those individuals who are sick.
- Face masks and respirators are not recommended for prevention at this time.
- In addition to the preventative measures listed above, remember to be mindful of your traditional wellness methods used since time immemorial (madrone berries, elderberries, ginger, acorn, peppercorn, tea, etc.)

Additional COVID-19 Information available at:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- [www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19)

Please post where necessary and if you should have any questions regarding COVID-19 please contact Public Health Nurse Thana Webb at (530) 842-9200 ext. 6111 or by email at [twebb@karuk.us](mailto:twebb@karuk.us) If you have questions regarding travel restrictions please refer them to our Executive Director, Josh Saxon at (530) 493-1600 ext. 2037 or by email at [jsaxon@karuk.us](mailto:jsaxon@karuk.us)