

CHEHALIS TRIBE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE



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Meeting community needs as a team

Chehalis tribal staff rally to deliver essential services

Because of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Chehalis Tribe closed a majority of its operations for two weeks on Wednesday, March 18.

Both the Chehalis Tribal Government and Lucky Eagle Casino decided it would be in the best interest of its employees and general public to close through March 31.

This decision was made prior to Gov. Jay Inslee declaring a statewide stay-at-home order that went into place March 25. Although the tribe was set to reopen April 1, that date has been adjusted.

The timeframe to continue normal business is contingent on the ongoing emergency. The tribe will continue to keep the community informed and provide resources through

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Volunteers needed: Contact Lucy Hill at **360-709-1620** or email **eoctraining@chehalis-tribe.org** to help out in any capacity.

Public information call center: **360-570-5350**

All emergencies: **Call 911**

essential services and a Command Team established for this incident.

Essential services remain operating to provide for the community. They include:

- Public Safety to keep the community secure.
- Wellness Center for everyone's health.
- Facilities and Maintenance to ensure buildings are clean and sanitized.
- Information Technology



Operations team members take action during the Covid-19 pandemic.

keeps everyone connected by providing channels of electronic communication.

■ End of the Trail convenience stores remain open to provide supplies.

The tribe has designated a team to assist our community during this pandemic.

The team is responsible for logistics, planning, operations, safety, health and public information. With the help of Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, the Command Team has established

a Center for those who need essential supplies for their household.

The planning and logistics teams work together to respond to requests and get supplies to individuals in the safest and fastest way possible.

This task is difficult with social distancing, but the teams have collaborated and formed a system to best serve those in need.

See TEAMWORK, page 2

Casino takes swift action

Lucky Eagle serves as hub for calls, supplies

As news of the Covid-19 pandemic began to escalate, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel staff knew they would have to quickly adapt and change their routines. Plans for adjusted opening hours soon turned into plans for an absolute closure on March 18.

Management knew the difficult part was only just beginning. Despite never having been closed for this

length of time, Lucky Eagle is no stranger to emergencies. The main part of the reservation is located in an area prone to severe flooding. Planning and preparation allowed the casino to take an emergency flood plan and quickly adapt it to the ongoing virus outbreak.

While parking lots are empty on the outside, the casino remains busy with activity and is staffed 24 hours a day as a vital hub in the ongoing tribal emergency

See CASINO, page 3

Message from chairman

Chehalis tribal members and community,

First off, I hope that everybody is doing as well as they can be. Please know that we are holding the entire community in our prayers. I am very pleased to announce that there have been zero confirmed cases of the Covid-19 virus on the Chehalis Reservation.

There is no doubt we are in difficult and trying times. The Covid-19 pandemic is here and will have lasting effects. As we look forward, this might be the



Harry Pickernell Sr.

beginning of a new normal. We will adapt and thrive, but right now, we will need to get through some difficult days.

I cannot stress enough that we continue to wash our hands, sanitize high-touch areas at home and practice social distancing.

See CHAIRMAN, page 2

Law enforcement help

Chehalis tribal community,

Law enforcement's primary role during this Covid-19 emergency is to help educate people about how to comply with suggestions or orders to stay at home. We are not being asked to detain, arrest or ticket for compliance.

We view our role more as one of education.

Educating residents on how to keep themselves safe and their families safe. And most importantly, how to keep the rest of the community safe, especially our vulnerable populations.

■ We understand some people need to carry out essential services such as:

1. Safety and security
2. Food, water, shelter
3. Health and medical



Chief Kelly Edwards

4. Energy (power and fuel)
 5. Communications
 6. Transportation
- Our community members have shown they understand the severity of the situation and are doing all they can already to keep themselves, families and neighbors safe and healthy.

■ When officers encounter people not complying with an order, we will remind them, as appropriate, of the recommendation and/or restrictions.

■ Law enforcement has no desire to make arrests or take anybody to jail for violations.

■ Rumors of individuals or businesses needing "passes" or "licenses" to conduct essential services are not true.

Rest assured, we will continue to serve you and our community every minute of every day, and we will always enforce the laws that keep people safe.

Chief Kelly Edwards

This important communications link will help community members stay informed. It is staffed by employees at Lucky Eagle Casino under the direction of the Chehalis Tribe Emergency Operations Center.

Callers can obtain information on hours of operation for essential services such as the Wellness Center, Tribal Dump and End of the Trail stores.

Any basic questions about Covid-19 and emergency preparedness can also be directed to the call center.

The tribe is available to provide basic necessities (food, cleaning supplies and hygiene items) on a limited basis to any tribal member who meets the criteria for a confirmed or probable case of Covid-19 and is quarantined in his or her home.

For those in this category, please contact the call center to request assistance. Your request will be forwarded to the Emergency Operations staff to further assist you.

This assistance is available only to tribal members that live on the reservation or within a 30-mile radius.

CHAIRMAN

From page 1

Stay at home

If we do not need to leave the house, I am asking that we stay put as much as we can. When we do need to go out, consolidate trips. While at the grocery store, we also can stop to get gas and medications in a single trip.

In our home, the best thing we can do is to keep surfaces clean with disinfectant. Wipe down high-touch surfaces such as countertops, door knobs, refrigerator handle, phones and the television remote.

Social distancing is defined as staying 6 feet apart. It is the best defense for our own personal health and the health of our loved ones. It also will slow the spread of the virus.

What is the tribe doing?

Difficult decisions have been made and implemented. As you are aware, we temporarily closed the Tribal Government, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, Great Wolf Lodge and most of our enterprises. This decision was made for one reason – to protect our community by limiting exposure of the virus on the reservation.

The gas stations and convenience stores remain open so that we have access to gas and basic supplies. Please know that we have taken extra measures to ensure the safety of both our staff and customers during this crisis. This includes extra sanitizing, gloves and masks when requested. Rest assured that no staff member will be required to work if he or she is feeling ill or unsafe.

The Wellness Center, Pharmacy and Public Safety will stay open to provide services throughout this period. Additionally, other limited tribal services will work on an emergency basis to support the Covid-19 response. The Wellness Center is prioritizing potential cases and patients. The criteria for testing is that you need to be showing symptoms. There is no need to be tested if you are feeling fine.

However, if you are having symptoms that include fever, dry cough, fatigue, aches, and in extreme cases, difficulty breathing, please call the Wellness Center for testing and

treatment plans.

We have assembled a dedicated incident command team that is doing everything possible to ensure that our community is safe, healthy and getting emergency supplies.

We also are ensuring elders receive meals. All elders should have received a care package with basic food supplies including boxes of cereal, eggs, bread, cheese and bottled water. More is on the way.

We have been coordinating with Oakville School District to be sure children are being fed. Any of our children attending Oakville School District should have received a Chromebook along with curriculum objectives.

We can never thank our volunteers enough for their tireless efforts. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to provide these services. This includes meal deliveries, care package deliveries, garbage pickup and everything else our great volunteers have been doing since day one of this crisis.

Thank you very much. I thank you today and I thank you every day for your selfless service to our tribal members and our community.

In closing, stay home as much as possible. This is a time to keep your family safe. While you have your children near, this time allows us to teach new skills.

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, we can keep them busy learning skills our parents taught us. We can show future generations how to change a tire or the oil in our car, track finances or cook a family favorite recipe (frybread, hamburger stew). Use this time to create family trees, weave a basket, do bead work or learn our Chehalis language.

As we continue down this path, we will come out of this event stronger together.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone in our community safe.

Our actions will help us get back to normal operations as soon as possible. Let us all continue to use our bells, bibles and drums to pray for the safety of our members and our community.

Thank you and god bless.

**Harry Pickernell Sr.,
Chehalis Tribe Chairman**

TEAMWORK

From page 1

The operations team, which is headed by Facilities and Maintenance staff, has been tasked with various roles to provide support and keep buildings clean and keep people healthy.

They do so by conducting day-to-day sanitation, assisting with supply deliveries and maintaining infrastructure control for the Chehalis Tribe during this shutdown.

Both the wastewater and water treatment departments are running and tests are being completed in accordance with EPA standards.

The solid waste department is running on limited hours and staff. This includes elder garbage pickup on Tuesdays and Fridays as well as the tribal dump running on a limited schedule from noon-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The Chehalis Tribe has implemented a public information call center to provide information to community members during this Covid-19 emergency event.

The number to call is 360-570-5350.

Ensure kids learn and stay engaged

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19, all schools are shut down until at least April 24.

Here are fabulous online resources to keep young minds fresh during the long weeks ahead:

■ **Scholastic Learning at Home** (scholastic.com): Educational materials for students that center around a concept of the day. Included are videos, books and ideas to discuss. Pre-K to grades 6-9. Subjects include English language arts, STEM, science, social studies and social-emotional learning.

■ **Newsela.com**: For K-12. Learn how otters play a vital role in ecology of rivers or why baby animals have pink ears. Older students can find a wealth of information on this site. STEAM activities, social studies, government, current events, history, English language arts, research projects, culture, math and recipes. Parents can learn what kids should know about Covid-19. Read about Joy Harjo, the first Native American to be named a U.S. poet laureate. And discover why it's crucial for

CHEHALIS K-12 PARENTS

If your child needs academic help, send your email or phone number to chehalistribek12@gmail.com. You will be sent an invite for a Google chatroom that you can access from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays for academic questions.

FUN DIY IDEAS

For simple tips to keep little kids entertained at home, go to chehalistrike.org.

Native Americans to be counted in the U.S. census.

■ **opb.pbslearningmedia.org**: Click on "Learning at home? Start with our PreK-12 Resources for Emergency Closings." Inspire pre-K through high school students with videos, games and activities. A wealth of topics, including world languages, health, engineering, social studies and math.

■ **TedEd** (<https://ed.ted.com>): Discover big and little ideas that appeal to curious types. Animations and talks

are designed to fire up young minds. Video-based lessons are organized by age and subject. Learn the surprising reason our muscles get tired and whether a black hole can be destroyed!

■ **National Geographic for Kids** (kids.nationalgeographic.com): Explore the wonders of our world in an interactive way. Enjoy cool quizzes, fun games and silly fill-ins.

■ **Cosmic Kids Yoga** (cosmickids.com): Vibrant and easy-to-follow routines range from relaxed to energizing. Follow "Be the Pond" for mindfulness or "Squish the Fish" for an active session.

■ **GoNoodle** (gonoodle.com): Movement and mindfulness videos created by child-development experts. Get good energy flowing with videos and downloadable activities.

■ **Out-there tales** (<https://storytimefromspace.com>): Watch the Earth spin in the background as an astronaut reads to you from space. How cool is that? Check out the story "Ada Lace, Take Me to Your Leader."

■ **Storyline Online** (storylineonline.net): Celebrities

read a range of fantastic books geared toward K-4th grade. Watch Kristen Bell bring "Quackenstein Hatches a Family" to life, Rose Byrne deliver Beatrix Potter's famous "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" and Reid Scott present William Steig's "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble."

■ **Brains On** (brainson.org): Great background listening on interesting educational topics such as birdsongs, secrets of the spectacular spacesuit and how ants and spiders walk on walls.

■ **Broaden your horizons** with virtual zoo, aquarium, theme park and museum tours. A massive list is available at goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours. Explore 360-degree tours of every exhibit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History offers. Or relax with real-time views of the adorable residents of Seattle Aquarium.

■ **Doodle time**: Search for "Art For Kids Hub" on YouTube. Youth can stretch their minds with a few swipes of a pencil. Art lessons include drawing, painting and even origami.

CASINO

From page 1

response effort. Employees are needed for food preparation, logistics, communications and maintenance.

The kitchen unit is still active, providing three meals daily to employees serving emergency efforts and delivering up to 100 elder meals per day.

The casino is one of the major storehouses of basic supplies during the course of the crisis, using established contacts with vendors to keep inventory rolling in and stay stocked up on basic hygiene and emergency inventory. These are dispensed to appropriate tribal agencies as needed.

One of the most important roles the casino has played during all of this is setting up a call center to serve as the emergency point of contact for community members who have questions about the crisis.

Looking forward, staff



Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel food and beverage staff provide meals for elders and workers.

also keep in mind plans for a reopening when officials declare it safe. Casino employees who asked to stay home during the emergency are regularly updated on the situation. Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel is ready to help keep the Chehalis tribal community safe and supplied.

Take good care of yourself

It's a tough time for all of us. Staying cooped up at home has its benefits and setbacks. Be kind to yourself as much as possible.

Social distancing can be difficult. There are many ways to connect with others such as video chat, texting or picture messaging. Daily check-ins help to ease the mind and fill our days with joy and laughter.

Taking care of mental health is important right now. It's crucial to build up resilience, enhance your immune system and ultimately enhance the health of the community.

Activities you can do to stay busy at home:

1. Journaling
2. Enjoy a hot cup of tea.
3. Do stretching or dancing!
4. Practice slow, deep breathing.
5. Take a short walk around the neighborhood if possible.
6. Go out for a walk along

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

For confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, call **800-273-8255 (TALK)**, visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Crisis Chat webpage or text the Crisis Text Line (text **START to 741741** from anywhere in the United States) and a trained crisis counselor will respond quickly.

the forest trails or along the river, harvest nettles and fiddler ferns for fresh greens for meals and spruce tip tea to boost your vitamin C.

7. Spruce up your yards and flower bed or get a garden ready for spring planting.

8. Say positive affirmations out loud, "I will get through this," "This is for protection of health," and "I am helping my community by staying home."

USDA FOOD PROGRAM

9:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M. APRIL 17, CHEHALIS TRIBAL COMMUNITY CENTER

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency's program offers an assortment of food to fill your freezer, refrigerator and cupboards. **SIGN UP:** Call Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689 or 360-438-4216

4

CTWC issues guidelines to slow the spread of virus

Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center (CTWC) staff are continuing to work with the tribe's emergency response team and our local, state and national public health offices on Covid-19 efforts.

We want to emphasize that every community member has a very important role in slowing the spread of Covid-19 for the safety of you and your family.

Clinics in general, including CTWC, unfortunately do not have effective treatments for Covid-19. CTWC has a very limited supply of tests despite regularly asking for more. We can't test everyone we would otherwise want to. This is why it is important to continue simple measures to keep yourself and others healthy.

Most helpful efforts for community safety are health measures such as washing hands frequently, staying at home when sick and covering your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue and washing hands.

If you are at high risk (elders, pregnant women and those who have other health problems such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or cancer) these measures help protect you. If you are at lower risk (young people with no health problems), remember being young does not rule out serious illness. These efforts are still important to protect you and your loved ones.

If you do NOT HAVE a fever, cough or other respiratory symptoms:

Wash your hands well, use hand sanitizer, don't touch your face, stay at home, keep social distancing practices, plan trips out to make the fewest trips possible and clean surfaces.



Employees screen patients before they enter the Wellness Center, a precaution to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

Keep in mind the virus can linger in the air for hours and remain on surfaces for days.

If you HAVE or develop a fever, cough or other respiratory symptoms:

If you don't have danger signs (such as worsening shortness of breath or other signs your condition is getting worse) and are not in the high-risk group or a first responder, the safest thing is for you to do all of the above plus stay at home, wear a mask over your mouth and nose, keep surfaces clean and stay away from other people.

Treat any respiratory symptoms like they are Covid-19 and don't spread it. Acting like your symptoms are from Covid-19 is recommended by public health experts in part because we don't have enough tests to test everyone and some people will have Covid-19 without knowing it (it can look like a regular cold or flu or no

symptoms at all).

Do everything you can to not spread whatever you have to others and keep doing this until your symptoms are gone and you are feeling back to normal. This is not easy, but it is important for the safety of your loved ones.

We are only seeing urgent care patients for in-person visits, but we will update you when this changes. At the clinic, anyone with fever or possible virus symptoms is encouraged to call for advice and not go into the clinic building to reduce spread to others. Anyone who needs to come in and has respiratory symptoms (cough, runny nose, fever, etc.) will be seen in his or her car to reduce the risk of spread to community members.

Stay safe and let's continue to pull together.

Sincerely,
The Chehalis Tribal
Wellness Center

WHAT IS THE CLINIC DOING FOR ME?

Since March 18, the Wellness Center has put new practices into place to keep you safe:

- When you arrive for a visit, a staff member greets you at the door to ask screening questions.
- All patients with respiratory symptoms, recent travel or who might have had close contact with a known patient with Covid-19 is asked to remain in their vehicles for a more thorough evaluation. Please pull up to the appropriate side of the tent.
- We have asked that all patients who wish to be seen call first to limit your possible exposure to Covid-19 and to give us an opportunity to manage concerns from home if possible.
- Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- The pharmacy is filling 90-day refills for any medication they can. A delivery option is available for those at high-risk or who are self-quarantining.
- We will notify you of any changes.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Call the center at **360-273-5504**. If you are having a medical or life-threatening emergency, **call 911**.

ONLINE

For advice on cleaning and disinfecting your home and how to safely care for a loved with Covid-19, go to chehalistribe.org.