



# MESCALERO Apache TRIBE

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## COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies for the Mescalero Apache Tribe

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is of great concern to the Tribal President, Vice-President, Council and Administration as well as the Mescalero Apache Tribe's first responders and healthcare departments and facilities.

### HIGHLIGHT:

The Mescalero Community is taking proactive measures to protect our community and to assist in the nationwide effort to slow the transmission of the novel coronavirus SARS-COV-2, the cause of the disease (COVID-19). These approaches can minimize morbidity and mortality and the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Individuals, communities, businesses, and healthcare organizations are all part of a community mitigation strategy.

### GOALS:

The goals for using mitigation strategies for the Mescalero Apache Tribe are to protect:

- Individuals at increased risk for severe illness, including our elderly population and persons of any age with underlying health conditions (See Appendix 1 attached)
- The healthcare and critical infrastructure workforces

These strategies should be implemented to prepare for and when there is evidence of community transmission.

Implementation is based on:

- Emphasizing individual responsibility for implementing recommended personal-level actions

- Empowering businesses, schools, and community organizations to implement recommended actions, particularly in ways that protect persons at increased risk of severe illness

Focusing on settings that provide critical infrastructure or services to individuals at increased risk of severe illness

<p>For Every Individual and Family Home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor information provided by the Tribal government and Indian Health Services (IHS) about COVID-19 (both entities are providing reliable information disseminated by the CDC and the World Health Organization); avoid non-verified and unreliable information provided by sources like social media</li> <li>• Practice personal protective measures (e.g. hand washing, using Lysol to clean doorknobs, countertops and other high use areas, removing your shoes before entering your home, and avoid physical contact)</li> <li>• Create and put a household plan into action (e.g. if someone is sick, isolate them as much as possible from other household members)</li> <li>• Ensure 30-day supply of all medicines</li> <li>• Individuals at risk of severe illness should stay at home avoiding gatherings or other situations of potential exposures (travel, church attendance, and social events with 10 or more people)</li> <li>• Other individuals without such risk factors should adapt to disruptions in routine activities (e.g., school and/or work closures) by using remote participation such as telework where feasible or online classes or home study (e-learning)</li> <li>• Call healthcare facility prior to visiting if symptoms occur (they need to prepare to receive you)</li> </ul>
<p>Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All NM public schools are closing for 3 weeks; Mescalero Apache Schools is closing for 2 weeks; MAS will be disinfecting rooms and furniture; these closures occur over spring break; these closures allow additional time for health care and school facilities to prepare</li> <li>• Schools should arrange for students at risk of severe illness for distance learning, e-learning</li> <li>• Implement social distancing measures (cancel large gatherings (e.g., assemblies); alter schedules to reduce</li> </ul>

	<p>mixing (e.g., stagger recess, entry/dismissal times); limit all classroom mixing; limit inter-school interactions of all types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider distance or e-learning in schools with higher risk populations (e.g., special needs children)</li> <li>• Consider regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening on arrival at school) of students, staff, and visitors or home monitoring</li> <li>• Short-term dismissals and cancellation of extracurricular activities as needed (e.g., if cases of virus occur) for cleaning and contact tracing</li> <li>• Consider implementing distance learning if feasible</li> </ul>
<p>Mescalero Day Care Centers/ Boys &amp; Girls Club Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sites will remain open until further notice</li> <li>• All sites will send any child home who is displaying symptoms of the COVID-19 along with a referral that must be signed by a doctor</li> <li>• All staff have completed a Health and Safety orientation and will continue to disinfect and sanitize</li> </ul>
<p>Mescalero Care Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mescalero Care Center is not allowing visitors</li> <li>• MCC is providing hand washing stations at the entrance for staff that enter &amp; exit the building</li> <li>• MCC currently has no outside hospice</li> <li>• MCC has no outside travel</li> <li>• MCC is only accepting urgent admissions</li> <li>• Implement social distancing measures, e.g.: cancel large gatherings (e.g., group social events with 10 or more people); alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger meal, activity, arrival/departure times)</li> <li>• Limit programs with external staff</li> <li>• Daily upon arrival temperature and respiratory symptom screening of visitors/staff</li> <li>• Staff should wear masks and wash hands thoroughly before entering and after exit of room of inhabitants</li> <li>• Short-term closures as needed (e.g., if cases in staff, residents or clients who live elsewhere) for cleaning and contact tracing</li> <li>• Longer-term closure or quarantine of facility until situation resolved</li> </ul>

<p>Mescalero Elderly Center, CHR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mescalero Elderly Center is encouraging participants to use basic hygiene practices</li> <li>• Mescalero Elderly Center will continue to be open for the meal services until further notice</li> <li>• CHR is providing education on how to “shelter in place”</li> <li>• CHR is going to individual homes to share information</li> </ul>
<p>Tribal Employees (Governmental and Enterprises)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement social distancing measures, e.g.: spacing workers at the worksite; staggering work schedules; decreasing social contacts in the workplace (limit in-person meetings); all break areas must accommodate distancing with regular disinfection of all eating surfaces; and eliminate large work-related gatherings (e.g., staff meetings, after-work functions)</li> <li>• Cancel non-essential work travel</li> <li>• Consider regular health checks on arrival each day (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of staff and visitors entering buildings</li> <li>• All employees may be approved to stay home on a case by case basis without disciplinary actions if a medical professional confirms that symptoms are consistent with COVID-19; such employees are expected to use any accrued PTO first; then, leave with pay will be granted</li> <li>• Director's, managers and/or supervisors will be expected to step-in and perform the duties of excused employees</li> <li>• Please note: Inn of the Mountain Gods Employees may have additional strategies</li> </ul>
<p>Community and Faith-based Organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement social distancing (reduce activities e.g., religious services, group congregation, especially for organizations with at-risk individuals, offer video/audio of events)</li> <li>• Determine methods to continue providing support services to individuals at risk of severe disease (services, meals, checking in) while limiting group settings and exposures</li> <li>• Cancel large gatherings (e.g., &gt;250 people) or move to smaller groupings</li> <li>• For organizations that serve high-risk communities, cancel gatherings of more than 10 people and stagger access to support services</li> </ul>
<p>Mescalero IHS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call the front desk ahead of time so the staff can prepare for your arrival</li> <li>• Call the triage line that is available 24/7 at (575) 464-4441</li> </ul>

THIS DOCUMENT IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE NOTE: CHANGES MAY BE MADE. UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED.

APPROVED BY: *Gabe Aguilar* *3/13/20*  
Gabe Aguilar, President Date

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For more information:

New Mexico Dept. of Health Hotline: (505) 827-0006

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

## Appendix A: At-Risk Individuals

Underlying medical conditions that may increase the risk of serious COVID-19 for individuals of any age.

- Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
- Chronic kidney disease as defined by your doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis
- Chronic liver disease as defined by your doctor. (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis) Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease. 6
- Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS)
- Current or recent pregnancy in the last two weeks
- Endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes mellitus)
- Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Lung disease including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
- Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].