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## **North Fork Rancheria Implements Tribal State of Emergency Steps to Deal with COVID-19**

*Official Tribal Business to be Restricted to Essential Services to Protect Tribe, Citizens.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: North Fork, CA – March 18, 2020** – The North Fork Rancheria Tribal Council (“Tribe”) today announced the immediate suspension of non-critical services as a precaution against further spread of the COVID-19 (aka Corona Virus). These steps are in accordance with directives from the U.S. Government and State of California, state, federal, and international medical authorities, and tribes across the state and nation.

*“The health and wellbeing of our citizens and community is our highest concern and priority,”* said Elaine Bethel-Fink, Tribal Chair of the Rancheria. *“Many of these measures are required to comply with state and federal obligations. We regret any inconvenience these steps may create and appeal for everyone’s understanding, cooperation, and patience during these challenging times for our Tribe, state, and nation.”*

According to an Emergency Executive Decision executed today by the NFR Tribal Council, services and programs will be restricted in the following manner, starting immediately until April 13, 2020 and covering the General Council, Tribal Council, and Staff until further notice:

- **All government entities/programs will operate on a minimal staff ratio in order for essential services to continue and furthermore**
- **All Tribal events for citizens, community, Elders and youth are CANCELLED!**
- **All travel for Tribal Council, Staff and Boards and Committees are restricted!**
- **All Tribal Boards and Committees will not conduct meetings in person or by telephone!**

Tribal Council will keep in constant contact to ensure that day-to-day operations continue on a limited basis and that essential needs are being met in a manner that protects staff, Tribal Citizens and the community at large. Tribal Council will reconvene prior to April 13, 2020 to reassess the situation.

Lastly, we have included the following websites as a resource regarding COVID-19:

- Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>
- Madera County Health Department - <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/health-updates/corona-virus>
- Fresno Co. Health Department - <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19>
- San Luis Obispo County - <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19>

Thank you – **The Tribal Council of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California.**

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### **About the North Fork Rancheria**

The North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians is a federally recognized Native American tribe with over 2,200 tribal citizens and government offices in Madera County, California. Since the restoration of its federally recognized status in 1983, the Tribe has established modern tribal governing institutions to improve the lives of its tribal citizens, many of whom have limited access to basic housing, healthcare, business, employment, and educational services and opportunity. The Tribe leverages its limited federal grant funding to operate numerous tribal programs (more information available at [www.NorthForkRancheria.com](http://www.NorthForkRancheria.com)).