From the Chairman of the Skokomish Indian Tribe, Charles Miller:

SKOKOMISH INDIAN TRIBE DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

In an abundance of caution and concern for our tribal members, community members and employees, the Skokomish Tribal Council has issued Resolution 2020-037 Proclaiming a Public Health Emergency in response to the pandemic over the COVID-19 outbreak in our state and surrounding communities. The Skokomish Indian Tribe’s emergency declaration facilitates access to federal and state resources dedicated for response to the COVID-19 infections.

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and poses a higher risk to our elders and our community members who have underlying health conditions. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The Center for Disease Control identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United State as “high” and has advised that person-to-person spread will continue to occur globally, including within the United States.

The Skokomish Indian Tribe is working closely with our tribal, federal and state partners to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and is doing its best to implement best practices for the health, welfare and safety of all Skokomish Nation citizens. The Tribe has cancelled all non-essential travel, have canceled or postponed all events and activities, and have restricted all public meetings and access to tribal buildings.

It is recommended that people stay home when sick, keep away from others who are sick or when a household member is sick, self-quarantine for at least 14 days when you have come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, and of course use best practices with regards to personal hygiene and sanitizing procedures. The Tribe also suggests you follow public health advice and refer to the Center for Disease Control website for more information.

Effective immediately, we are closing all Skokomish Nation governmental operations with the exception of essential governmental services. This emergency measure will last for the next 14 days until March 31, 2020 at which time we will assess the most appropriate next steps to protect our citizens from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please refer to the information below and our website www.skokomish.org for a list of government service availability.
**Skokomish Health Clinic Update**

Currently, we are continuing to see patients in medical, dental and mental health and chemical dependency. The RN, Deanna Mehloff, is triaging calls as they come in and will consult with the provider regarding priority levels. All medication refills are being processed either the same day or immediately the next day for as long as we can, and we encourage members to refill their prescription(s) now. If you have to go to anywhere outside of the clinic for care please contact the clinic as soon as possible, so a purchase order can be generated. We will be discontinuing the following complimentary services effective today: chiropractor, podiatry, nutritionist, denturist and diabetic outreach.

**Skokomish Housing Update**

**Housing**

Due to the coronavirus outbreak Housing will be revising how we provide service to tribal members. The office will not be staffed on a regular schedule but will be available by email and cell phone for emergencies.

We are suspending all home inspections and home visits.

Applications will be accepted by mail or electronically.

Emergency repair requests for water or sewage issues can be emailed, texted, or by phone at the number listed below.

We have informed all of our contractors of the need for them to inform us of any illness in their staff and protective steps they need to implement in servicing our clients or buildings.

Emergency Contact Information

Larry Winders

lwinders@skokomish.org

509-846-32532
Accounting Department Update

Effective March 17 – March 27

Payments will be accepted by Mail and by Phone with a Debit or Credit Card on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm

Employee payroll Checks and other reimbursements will be delivered to the respective departments or can be mailed. DNR contractors’ checks will be delivered to DNR and delivered to contractors via the walk by window.

Requisitions and time sheets should be delivered by email. A drop box outside the Accounting Office door can also be used to deliver paperwork and mail.

Please take all precautions to protect your own health.

✓ Wash hands often
✓ Stay home when sick
✓ Cover coughs and sneezes with an elbow or tissue
✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick
✓ Clean surfaces and objects that are frequently used
✓ Avoid close contact with others

Skokomish Education Department Update

The Skokomish Education Department will be closed as of March 17th.

- The Hood Canal and Shelton School District will be providing lunch for all students 18 years old and younger. Hood Canal will be transporting lunching and they will be dropped off at various bus stops.
- The High School 21+ Program will continue using virtual classroom. If you have any questions please contact Antonio Sandifer at (360) 490-7710
- At this time, Shelton School District will not be providing any academic support during the time period while the school district is closed.
- Hood Canal School has sent home academic packets with the students and some classes will be using google classroom. Students need to check their email to stay current on their assignments.
- ECE lunches will now be coordinated with Hood Canal School District. Any youth up to age 18 can get a lunch bag and provided by the school buses. Parents should ensure their children pick up their lunches as they see the buses in the neighborhoods.
**TANF Update**

At this time of the State of Emergency, the TANF Building and Computer lab will be closed to the public. We will be in the office to get work done as needed.

Participants, please call the office, or message your case manager as needed. Grants will be processed & emergency support services requests can be done over the phone. If you do not have direct deposit, the checks will be mailed.

Blues day (lunch) is cancelled, BUT the MERs are still required to process a check *the system won't allow us to process if you do not submit the MER. You may call your Case Manager to do the MER over the phone.

Thanks, EVERYONE BE SAFE

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**Natural Resources Update**

Unfortunately, the coronavirus has taken a toll on the services we provide to the Skokomish Tribe and the community at large. We anticipate offering all of our regular services with some caveats:

1. All transactions will be via the window in the Administration Office. This includes:
   a. Shellfish, subsistence and geoduck tags
   b. ID stickers will be available at DNR, not Accounting, until further notice
2. Vibrio testing will start in late March or early April. We will allow testers into the office in groups of two. All others will have to wait outside. If you are sick, we will allow you to take the test in the front alcove.
3. Field work will continue as usual.
4. Regulations will be filed and posted as usual.
5. Only DNR staff will be allowed into the building. This means family, friends, community and non-DNR Tribal employees will not be allowed entrance.
6. If you have a question please email us rather than come to the office.
7. Finally, as we will be severely short-staffed, please bring your patience if you stop by and consider making an appointment so you know someone will be available.
8.
**Tuwaduq Family Services Update**

- Family Services will be working to provide Home delivered meals to the Tribal Elders three times per week. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The health clinic staff will deliver the meals, so that the elders can be monitored for their health and safety. Ocean and Sunsomay will be preparing the takeout meals for our oldest elders first and providing to the first 50 that were currently taking advantage of the elder’s luncheon program. Obtaining food right now is the reason for the limitation.
- The domestic violence staff will continue to work and provide necessary service if need be. They will also be shifting into different job areas if necessary to help in this crisis.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation program continue to provide services as much as possible.
- Healthy Families staff will provide services this week and due to family, the staff will be taking Administrative leave due to childcare issues next week.
- We will continue to have people turn in food vouchers requests as needed.
- The TFS staff will be working, but as new things may be announced regarding the crisis, our schedules may change. We are all mindful of the crisis but are willing to help in areas that the community may need assistance in the absence of those that may not be able to work. We are aware of the need to stay healthy and keep members of the community healthy by the safe distance and remain close to home.
- The garden crew is working at this time and some may need to be off in order to take care of their children. We will make ourselves available if needed.
- This schedule will be for this week. Staff may change their mind and chose to take administrative leave.

**Tribal Court**

The March 20, 2020 calendar has been postponed until April 24, 2020. Decisions on future calendars will be made at a time closer to when the calendars are currently scheduled. Any criminal cases involving in-custody defendants will be heard telephonically.
Find out if you are eligible for benefits such as food, cash, and some medical programs.

Check with Terri Butler, DSHS Public Benefits Specialist III to check your eligibility.

Due to the COVID – 19 outbreak DSHS has limited in person services. Until further notice.....Effective Monday 3-23-20, your tribal outreach worker will not be available at the tribal locations.

You can still call Terri (Tribal Outreach Worker) @ 360-432-2031

or call the DSHS Customer Service Call Center @ 1-877-501-2233

You can complete Applications, Eligibility Reviews and Mid-Certifications online for program assistance.