Skokomish Tribal Update 4/06/2020:

The Tribe continues to take aggressive and progressive steps to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Tribe has concentrated its approach on mitigation and preparation. Tribal Departments have been working very hard to ensure the safety of the community. Within the past thirty days:

- Tribal Buildings have been closed to the public to adhere to social distancing in the hopes of prevention efforts to stop the spread of the virus.
- Additional efforts were implemented as Staff were placed on administrative leave. Essential staff have been identified to ensure medical, food distribution, and safety continue to be provided for the community.
- Elder Meals have transitioned from congregate meals to delivery only. Rosetta and her staff continue to cook and provide deliveries utilizing the Clinic’s CHR’s.
- Youth Program activities have been suspended. In coordination with Hood Canal School District and the Early Childhood Education Center delivered meals are distributed to bus stops to ensure youth receive their daily meals.
- Coordination with other food alternatives have been implemented such as donated perishables and additional USDA distributions.
- Tribal Council has ensured rental and water payments have been suspended for March and April for tribal members while also ensuring members don’t get evicted for non-payment.
- Vouchers were provided through Tribal Family Services and Tribal TANF to assist Tribal members in purchasing food and supplies.
- Tribal Council amended the General Welfare Policy increasing the benefit to assist with COVID-19 expenses.
- Natural resources waived fees and mailed out Fish stickers. Staff worked to provide available open beaches for tribal members to work and encouraged social distancing while working.
- Health clinic worked to make telehealth available to the tribe.
- Tuwaduq Park and playground were recently closed to protect the community from congregating and exposing children to un-sanitized toys.

It was important to the Tribal council and administration to provide support to our staff and their families through these trying times. Administrative leave was made available for their safety. As the virus continue to increase in areas near the community please be aware that the Tribe will also need to progress its actions for measures to protect the health and safety of the community. We request that you do your part by continuing to abide by the guidance that is provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Please continue to provide support to the essential service staff and Tribal Council who are dedicated to serving the community. They are tirelessly providing the best services they can during this difficult time. We are very thankful for their leadership, time, dedication, and sacrifices they are making to continue service to the community. All staff continue to work on COVID-19 and those that are working remotely are working on assigned program objectives.

Please stay home unless it is essential to go out. Please continue to take precaution to shield yourself with a mask when you need to go out. Please continue to utilize Twin Totems for your grocery and supply needs. Items have been increased to accommodate the community during this time. Please also know that the Council has approved a 30% discount so you do not need to go into town. Tribal operation closure has been extended to Friday, April 10, 2020. Information will continue to be updated on the Tribe’s websites and social platforms. Your assistance is appreciated and together we will get through this. Thank you.