



RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY
★ CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

34 Reservation Road, Reno, NV 89502
Phone: (775) 329-2936 • Fax: (775) 954-9175

March 20, 2020 – COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT on COVID-19

All RSIC Tribal Members & Residents,

As the Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and on behalf of Tribal Council, I would like to assure you the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is doing everything within its capability to protect our tribal community from the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). First, I must express how important it is that we approach this with a sense of calm and responsibility.

With this worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, all government leaders have a great responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of our communities. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This is a serious matter. We are doing everything we can to protect our community from getting sick and possibly dying.

WE ARE STRONGLY URGING ALL TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO:

- AVOID ANY GATHERINGS LARGER THAN 10 PEOPLE, INCLUDING PUBLIC PLACES.
 - ESPECIALLY THOSE AT HIGHER RISK, INCLUDING:
 - PEOPLE 55 AND OLDER
 - PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS INCLUDING HEART DISEASE, LUNG DISEASE OR DIABETES.
- STAY HOME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND USE TECHNOLOGY; SUCH AS CELLPHONES, COMPUTERS, TABLETS; TO STAY UPDATED IN REAL-TIME.
- GO TO WWW.RSIC.ORG and FOLLOW RSIC ON FACEBOOK @rsictribe.
- IF YOU'RE AN ELDER WITH NO ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY OR SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, ETC...), PLEASE ASK FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SHARE WITH YOU.
- PLEASE CHECK-ON YOUR ELDERLY FAMILY MEMBERS & NEIGHBORS DURING THIS TIME WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES.



Right now, the RSIC Tribal Council decided to:

- Cancel/postpone all March-June community events.
- Transit Services will STOP Services, effective Monday, March 23rd, 2020.
- The Tribal Health Center has also fully activated their action plan to take precautionary measures to protect patients, community, and RSIC Staff.
Including:
 - Created a Single Point Entry with Screening Process to enter Health Center
 - Taking Walk-in Patients Only
 - Implemented a Pharmacy Park & Pickup Service
 - Employees are wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- ***The Senior Center:**
 - As of Monday March 23, 2020, the RSIC Senior Program will be operating Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - Five (5) meals will be prepared and delivered to senior clients who have requested meals. We are hoping to provide at least three (3) hot meals and two (2) cold meals. This will depend on the availability of food items.
 - Senior staff will make Elder Check-ups by phone calls for assistance, referrals and reassurance to elders as needed.
 - Respite Supplies delivered as needed; undergarments, nutritional drinks, etc.
 - To maintain and ensure limited physical contact between staff and seniors, drivers will honk upon arrival at the senior home to let them know of our arrival. Lunches will be placed in a bag, and left on door or on the inside fence gate for them to collect once we leave. Some seniors have dogs loose in yard and staff is not able to enter the yard.
 - Continue with program operation; budgets, bills, ordering, cleaning, etc.
 - Food and non-perishable item bags are going to be distributed to senior and disabled clients who meet the following –



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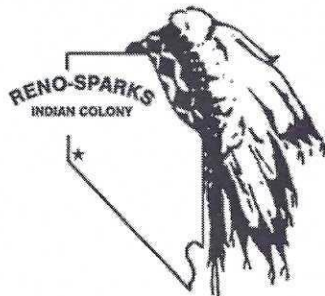
- Elders living alone and not under other programs
 - Elders with grandkids living with them
 - Elders with Spouse or other family living with them
 - Disabled adult clients
 - Elders who are not normally seen on a daily/weekly basis, are called to see if they are in need of a receiving a meal bag.
 - Youth recommended by UNITY or Recreation staff that are in need of food
- Senior Center is currently collaborating with UNITY, Recreation, Diabetes Program, Pharmacy and Human Services to meet the needs of the RSIC Senior clients, disabled adult clients and children/youth.
- Senior Staff are prepared to modify and make changes as necessary to ensure our Elders and Community are safe during this unprecedented time.
- **Our Smoke Shops will remain open with shortened hours, 7am-6pm.**
 - For precautionary measures for social distancing, our Smoke Shops are Drive Thru Only, with the exception of Smoke Shop#1. Smoke Shop #1 has a walk-in with limited access.
 - All Employees will wear recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- **Finance:**
 - Office will be CLOSED to the Public until further notice. Payments deferred for 30 days.
 - NOT Accepting new loan applications until further notice.
- **Housing:**
 - Addressing Emergency Work Orders Only. For info, call 775-771-4901.
 - RSIC is providing Rent Relief for the month of April. No rent payment for April.
 - If you paid your April rent, you will be credited for the month of May. No refunds issued.



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- **RSIC will waive ALL Water Payments for April.**
 - No Charge for March. However, you are still obligated to pay any past due balances.
 - If you paid your March bill, you will be credited for the month of May. No refunds issued.
- **RSIC will waive 2nd quarter (April-June) Disposal Service Charges.**
 - No Charge for 2nd Quarter. However, you are still obligated to pay any past due balances.
 - If you paid your 2nd quarterly bill, you will be credited for the 3rd quarter. No refunds issued.
- **Searching for Volunteers** to help with Elder Checkups, Food Distribution, Health Center, Security, etc... If you would like to Volunteer, please fill out Volunteer Form (see packet for form) and call Human Resources Director, Esther Sanchez, for an appt. at 775-785-1303 or 775-741-7947.
- **Directed all Non-Essential Depts./Employees to take Mandatory Administrative Leave until further notice.**
- **ALL TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**
- **ALL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RECOMMENDATIONS.**



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We are doing our best to keep you informed on the fast changing status of COVID-19 and resources that are available to tribal members, as they develop. Additionally, follow Reno-Sparks Indian Colony on Facebook or go to our website at www.rsic.org and click on the COVID-19 Information box. The Family Handbook will also be available on www.rsic.org.

Another way to find current COVID-19 information is to go online to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov or Washoe County Health District website at www.washoecounty.us/health.

We kindly ask, if you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms to call the Washoe County Health District for a Coronavirus Assessment at 775-328-2427. We also ask you to be a good neighbor and report your status to the Tribal Health Center; 775-329-5162; to help from spreading to other community members; especially our elders.

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is doing everything within its capability to protect our tribal community from the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Again, it is imperative that we approach this with a sense of calm. I strongly express, you have a self-responsibility to stock up on essential items for your home. As a community, we all have a greater responsibility, in times like this, to protect and care for our families, our elders and children. I am confident, if we work together; rally as a tribal community; and follow the preventive measures we will get through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Chairman Arlan D. Melendez and Tribal Council Members