



## Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

335588 E. 750 Rd.  
Perkins, Oklahoma 74059  
(405) 547-2402  
Fax: (405) 547-1032

March 18, 2020

Greetings Tribal Member,

As you are probably aware the COVID-19 Virus is spreading nationally and at a rapid rate, with cases almost doubling each day. The Business Committee of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma has been meeting over the last few weeks to plan the steps necessary to protect the tribal members, employees and the assets of the Iowa Tribe. We have implemented three phases in order to plan effectively and cover all needed areas. Currently, we are in the second phase of our plan which has allowed the tribal complex and casinos to remain open so you may not have noticed day to day changes. However, with the continuing concern of widespread exposure we are preparing to implement phase three. Phase three will result in the closing of the Tribal Complex beginning Monday March 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and continuing until April 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and may be extended if needed. We encourage tribal members to conduct their business with the Tribe either by phone, fax, email or USPS. We will continue processing Tribal Assistance Applications and taking phone calls to address your needs. We realize that not all needs can be addressed as a result of this closure, but please understand that we are keeping the tribal members health as our top priority. Additionally, on March 16, 2020 a Resolution declaring a State of Emergency, ordering the closure of certain tribal facilities, and suspending public and private events on tribal lands was passed. We have enclosed a copy of the that resolution for your records.

Unfortunately, due to the danger of public gatherings and the risk of widespread exposure to our patrons and employees, the tribal casinos will close. The closure will begin March 19, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. The casinos are tentatively scheduled to reopen March 31, 2020. This will include Cimarron Casino, Ioway Casino, Cimarron Bend and the Ioway Travel Plaza Casino and Grill. The Travel Plaza convenience store and gas pumps will remain open at this time and will be open 24 hours a day until such time the Casinos reopen.

This letter is being sent to all tribal members via email if we have an email address on file. Although we are also mailing a copy to all tribal members, if you know a family member that has an email address, please feel free to forward to them so they can receive immediately. In addition, we have posted this on the Tribal Webpage as well as the Iowa Tribe's Facebook Page.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 Virus threat as well as other casino and business closures and adjust our schedule as needed. As always, we want to ensure that the tribal members are safe and that we can address your needs despite the closing. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

***Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee***

Enclosure: Resolution I-20-16



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### RESOLUTION I-20-16

#### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY; ORDERING THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN TRIBAL FACILITIES; AND SUSPENDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EVENTS ON TRIBAL LANDS**

**WHEREAS,** The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Thomas-Rogers Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, and has a Constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Business Committee has the power to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is empowered to act pursuant to Article V, Section 2 of the Tribal Constitution; and,

**WHEREAS,** The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to be a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** The President of the United States has declared a national emergency declaration to combat COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS,** There have been ten confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of Oklahoma; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Perkins Family Clinic, in addition to other health professionals and researchers, have determined that COVID-19 is spread by human contact and interaction; and

**WHEREAS,** Avoidance of human contact through methods such as social distancing is believed to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** The spread of COVID-19 is a disaster affecting life, health, and safety of Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma tribal members and non-tribal members alike.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee does hereby proclaim and declare that a **STATE OF EMERGENCY** exists within the Indian Country of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and affecting all tribal businesses whether or not said businesses are located with Indian Country.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee does proclaim and declare:

SECTION ONE: The following Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma facilities shall be closed, and all events scheduled at said locations shall be postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this emergency declaration:

Wellness Center  
Title VI Dining Center

SECTION TWO: Meetings of all groups, committees and/or organizations of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma are hereby postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this emergency declaration. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Election Board is exempt from this cancellation requirement and shall continue to meet as required by the Constitution of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

SECTION THREE: All Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma District Court dockets are cancelled. Cases scheduled for arraignment, hearing and trial will be rescheduled. This includes all juvenile dockets. The Court will issue an order rescheduling cases and provide notice to all parties of new court dates.

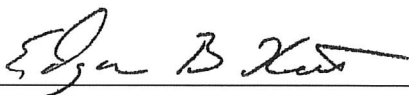
SECTION FOUR: While services to tribal members including, but not limited to, the tribal assistance program and Title VI meal program, will continue without interruption, the directors for these programs are authorized to control physical access to these facilities to ensure proper social distancing is followed.

SECTION FIVE: This State of Emergency shall continue until 12:01 AM April 5, 2020 or terminated earlier by Business Committee resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

We, Edgar B. Kent, Jr., Chairman of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and Lydia Renee Lincoln, Secretary of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the above Resolution I-20-16 to be a true and exact copy as approved at a special meeting held on March 16, 2020 by a vote of 3 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent and 1 abstention.

  
Lydia Renee Lincoln, Secretary  
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

  
Edgar B. Kent, Jr., Chairman  
Tribe of Oklahoma