



Shawnee Tribe
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For Immediate Release
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COVID-19 UPDATE: REOPENING OF SHAWNEE TRIBE AND GOLDEN MESA CASINO

Shawnee Tribe facilities in northeastern Oklahoma

The Shawnee Tribe will re-open our Ottawa County **tribal offices on June 15th, 2020**. During the first phase of reopening, access to the public and our citizens will remain limited. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we phase into a full opening. At this time, we will proceed cautiously to protect our citizens and employees that are in one of the CDC's defined risk categories (details here: <https://bit.ly/2ZSYpCO>).

Beginning on June 15th, you can still engage in business with the tribal office and as we enter new phases of re-opening, you can expect restrictions to slowly loosen.

Phase I | Begins June 15, 2020

During this phase, our tribal offices will re-open to staff only. Employees not defined as high-risk will return to their onsite respective workplaces. Employees will strictly adhere to new prevention and preparedness policies, including appropriate PPE, disinfecting protocols, and social distancing as determined by Administration. Tribal-related public or cultural gatherings will be prohibited.

Phase II | Begins June 29, 2020

During this phase, our tribal offices will re-open to the public, limited to single visitor/citizen in the building at a time. Public access within our facilities will be limited to the main lobby or common waiting areas only. Employees will continue to strictly adhere to prevention and preparedness policies, as outlined in Phase I. Guests may bring their own face

coverings, or masks and hand sanitizer will be made available, prior to entering Shawnee offices. Tribal-related public or cultural gatherings will be prohibited.

Phase III| Tentatively Begins August 3, 2020

Moving into Phase III will mean the threat of COVID-19 has diminished greatly, with a continual decrease in the trajectory of positive cases. Protocol will be less restrictive for employees, visitors, and citizens. Guests may bring their own face coverings, or masks and hand sanitizer will be made available, prior to entering Shawnee offices. Indoor public or cultural gatherings of 10 or less people will be allowable during this phase. Phase III will continue until vaccinations for COVID-19 exists and have been made available to all Shawnee Tribal employees.

Golden Mesa Casino

As we carefully move the Shawnee Tribal facilities towards a full opening, recovery, and renewal of normalcy, it is with the utmost caution that we must proceed at a slower pace for our Golden Mesa Casino in Guymon, Oklahoma. The conditions on the ground in Texas County differ greatly from what we have experienced in northeast Oklahoma. This will delay our anticipated resumption of gaming activities at **Golden Mesa Casino until June 22nd, 2020**. The situation in the panhandle region remains somewhat fluid, but the rate of infections in the region have lessened considerably.

As we approach our anticipated re-open date of June 22nd, we will be communicating more information to our staff, guests, and community. Employees of Golden Mesa Casino should communicate with management about the safeguards and training that will be deployed prior to opening. Later this month, patrons of Golden Mesa Casino can find information about the safeguards we are taking for their protection by visiting Golden Mesa Casino's social media feeds at <https://www.facebook.com/GoldenMesaCasino/>.

The Shawnee are committed to being safe, responsible stewards to our communities and appreciate the trust that our people have shown in us as we navigate back to normal with enhanced precautions. Please be patient and understanding with our staff as we deploy safeguards for you, our citizen or guest, as it is with the intention of being responsible to our friends, families, and neighbors.

Ben J. Barnes, Chief
Shawnee Tribe