



# SHAWNEE TRIBE

P.O. Box 189 ♦ MIAMI, OK 74355  
918-542-2441 ♦ FAX: 918-542-2922

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Chief Ben Barnes, (918) 541-8950, [chief@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:chief@shawnee-tribe.com)

COVID-19 UPDATE: Continuation of the Shawnee Tribe's social distancing policies

Shawnee Tribe Chief Ben Barnes announced today that the Shawnee Tribe, in its continuing efforts to prevent COVID-19 infections in our communities, our employees, and our families, we will continue our social distancing policy until April 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time the situation shall be reevaluated. Non-essential employees and businesses will remain closed, including the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center and the Golden Mesa Casino in Guymon, Oklahoma.

The Shawnee Tribal office will remain closed to the public. The Shawnee government will remain functional as staff members will be working either from home or in the tribal office in groups of no more than three persons per building.

Chief Barnes stated that "Our government remains committed to the protection of our communities that we serve. We have established a food relief program for our Shawnee tribal elders that are practicing safe, social distancing. They can reach that program at either [shawneerelief.org](http://shawneerelief.org) or by phone, at 1-(800) 824-8569. I urge our citizens, families, and communities to follow instructions and safety protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We will flatten this infection curve, we will provide for our elderly, and with your help, we will protect our communities."

"For our employees," Chief Barnes continued, "the Shawnee Tribe remains committed to employing our people and providing health benefits during this time. The Shawnee Tribe will continue this for as long as we are able and will reevaluate the crisis on April 15<sup>th</sup>."

*m'metelemwêta noki kokomfena, kikatamole kikitema çyaki yelekotiyâqa*

