

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WICHITA AND AFFILIATED TRIBES EXTENDS TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE
SUGAR CREEK CASINO, CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT CENTERS OWNED BY
THE TRIBE AND THE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020 DUE TO THE
COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Anadarko, Oklahoma-With uncertainty still on the horizon for Oklahoma due to the COVID-19 spread, the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes during their Executive Committee meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020, made the decision to extend the Declaration for the State of Emergency for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes through April 30, 2020.

These decisions were made after careful consideration of the forecast for more COVID-19 cases to arise in the State of Oklahoma. In addition, local, state and national officials are forecasting that the peak for COVID-19 in Oklahoma will be sometime in mid-April to May.

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes made the following decisions regarding the following entities:

- Sugar Creek Casino in Hinton, Oklahoma and Canyons Sports Grill
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Tribal Government Offices
- Child Development Centers located in Anadarko, Oklahoma

**Extending the Temporary Closure of the Sugar Creek Casino and Canyons Sports Grill
Through April 30, 2020**

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes has decided to extend the temporary closure that ends on March 31, 2020 so that the Sugar Creek Casino and Canyons Sports Grill, located in Hinton, Oklahoma, will remain closed through Thursday, April 30, 2020.

- The Sugar Creek Casino will continue to pay employees for the Sugar Creek Casino and the Canyons Sports Grill through April 30, 2020.
- The Sugar Creek Casino will be submitting a plan to the Wichita Executive Committee by March 31, 2020 on how essential staff will continue with operations during this time.

Extending the Limited Tribal Government Operations Through April 30, 2020

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes has decided to extend the March 31, 2020 deadline to Thursday, April 30, 2020 that limited Tribal Government operations, required only essential employees to work and authorized telework as needed.

We intend to minimize the impact to our employees and tribal members as much as possible and will take the following steps to do so.

- The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes will continue to pay all employees for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes' Tribal Government through Thursday, April 30, 2020 regardless if they are classified as essential or non-essential.
- All program directors are required to submit a plan by March 31, 2020 on how their program will operate through April 30, 2020.
- Non-essential employees may be requested to return to work for their program, as needed.
- Non-essential employees may be requested at certain periods of time to distribute food from our feeding programs and/or other supplies as needed as we continue to monitor the situation.
- Deliveries for food to the tribal elders enrolled in our Administration on Aging (AoA) Program will continue to be delivered food at lunch until and if there becomes a point that we can no longer safely deliver food to those enrolled in the AoA Program.
- The Food Distribution Program will continue to distribute food to people enrolled in the program as long as food is being delivered. They have specific protocols in place for picking up food and clients should call the program directly for instructions.
- Maintenance staff will continue to work and will begin the elder lawn program this week.

Extending the Closure of Child Care Facilities Through April 30, 2020

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes has decided to extend the temporary closure of the Wichita School Readiness Program and the Wichita Child Development Center, located in Anadarko, Oklahoma through Thursday, April 30, 2020. The City of Anadarko has also passed an executive order by the Mayor that would

- The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes will continue to pay all staff of the child development centers through April 30, 2020 regardless if they are considered essential or non-essential.
- Non-essential employees may be requested to return to work for certain periods of time as needed.

Other Entities Under the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

The Wichita Travel Plaza, Sugar Creek Inn & Suites operated by the Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission, the Wichita Tax Commission Tag Office and Wichita Tribal Smoke Shop operated by the Wichita Tax Commission, the Wichita Gaming Commission Offices operated by the Wichita Gaming Commission and the Wichita Housing Authority are directed to follow the lead of the Tribe to take all precautionary measures related to the health and safety of their employees, clients and patrons and to make sure their employees continue to receive compensation through April 30, 2020 while making the best decisions on limiting their business operations and/or closure depending on the situation of each entity.

Future Information

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes continues to monitor local, state and national leadership and healthcare officials' advice to do our part in slowing the spread during this pandemic as we all work to "flatten the curve." We will keep you informed regarding any changes as they arise. Please visit our website at www.wichitatribe.com and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Facebook page for more updates.

"The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes is committed to taking care of our tribal members and have made applications for assistance available for all enrolled members of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes during the COVID-19 outbreak to assist with food. Many of our tribal members have been laid off and have children at home that would otherwise be fed at school if it were not for the COVID-19 outbreak. We are also committed to taking care of our employees from our Sugar Creek Casino that work to help generate revenues that help us to provide programs for our people, create jobs and contribute to our community through the revenues the Tribe generates from tribal casinos. Finally, our Tribe is committed to taking care of our tribal employees that provide services to our tribal people and our employees in our child care programs that have helped take care of our children in the community. We all have a long road ahead of us during this COVID-19 outbreak and our Tribe is committed to doing our part in helping our tribal people, employees and community as much as we can. There is a scripture that says "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." We will make it through this by faith and doing the right thing." said, Terri Parton, President of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.