



***COVID-19 Core Decision Making Team Declaration***  
***Suspension of all Land Acquisition Activities***  
***March 19, 2020***

The world is currently facing a pandemic of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The COVID-19 outbreak originated in Wuhan, China and has spread to many other countries throughout the world, including the United States. The World Health Organization has identified that the spread of COVID-19 is now a pandemic resulting in many countries experiencing the effects of illness and health issues related to COVID-19 and economic impacts.

On March 12, 2020, Chairman Tehassi Hill signed a “*Declaration of Public Health State of Emergency*” regarding COVID-19 which set into place the necessary authority should action need to be taken and allows the Nation to seek reimbursement of emergency management actions that may result in unexpected expenses.


On March 17, 2020, the Oneida Business Committee adopted emergency amendments to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security law to create and delegate authority to a COVID-19 Core Decision Making Team (COVID-19 Team). [3 O.C. 302.10]. When a public health emergency has been declared, the COVID-19 Team has the authority to declare exceptions to the Nation’s laws, policies, procedures, regulations, or standard operating procedures during the emergency period which will be of immediate impact for the purposes of protecting the health safety, and general welfare of the Nation’s community, members, and employees. [3 O.C. 302.10-2].

The Real Property Law identifies in “section 601.4-2. Tribal Land Base. Land Management shall administer all transactions which add real property to the Tribal land base under the provisions of this law.” The Oneida Land Commission, through approved by-laws, provides oversight and approval of the land transactions identified in this section.

The COVID-19 Team hereby declares:

1. The Oneida Land Commission shall cease any new land purchases throughout the emergency declaration period; and
2. The Oneida Land Commission shall make all efforts to delay pending transactions or withdraw from all pending transactions based on an accompanying cost benefit analysis.

This declaration shall be made effective immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the Nation’s public health emergency.

  
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Oneida Nation Chairman