



## ***COVID-19 Core Decision Making Team Declaration***

*Stay Safer at Home*

*June 10, 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 Oneida Business Committee adopted the first extension resolution # BC-03-25-2020-A, Extension of March 12th Declaration of Public Health Emergency, which extended the emergency period to May 12, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. This extends the enforcement of all Declarations issued by the COVID-19 Team.

The Oneida Business Committee adopted the second extension resolution # BC-05-06-2020-A, Extension of Declaration of Public Health State of Emergency Until June 11th, which extended the emergency period to June 11, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. This extends the enforcement of all Declarations issued by the COVID-19 Team.

The Oneida Business Committee adopted the third extension resolution # BC-06-09-2020-A, Extension of Public Health State of Emergency Until July 12th, which extended the emergency period to July 12, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. This extends the enforcement of all Declarations issued by the COVID-19 Team.

Since adoption of Declaration: Safer at Home, issued March 24, 2020, the COVID-19 Team has worked in conjunction with other Tribal nations within the State of Wisconsin, National Congress of American Indians, Governor Evers of the State of Wisconsin, and other health officials to identify how to best meet the needs and protect the health and safety of individuals and businesses within the Oneida Reservation. As a result of this collaborative information gathering, and the Oneida Nation’s partnership with the State of Wisconsin to protect all persons within the Oneida Reservation and the State of Wisconsin, the overall positive rate of COVID-19 cases has remained low on the Reservation.

When the Wisconsin Supreme Court declared the latest order by the Governor's Department of Health Services unconstitutional, most of the counties of State of Wisconsin began to adopt Safer at Home orders like those presented through Governor Evers. These county orders were then rescinded when it became unclear about the authority of county governments to issue such orders. Through all of those, the Oneida Nation and other tribal nations have maintained its declarations in place. The Oneida Nation's Safer at Home Order and the Open for Business Amendments remain in place until June 11, 2020.

The Oneida Business Committee has extended the public health state of emergency until July 12th. After a review of the recommendation from the Public Health Officer, the COVID-19 Team believes that the Safer at Home Order and the Open for Business amendments are too strict for the current circumstances. However, there remains a need to provide guidance and maintain some restrictions.


The COVID-19 Core Decision Making Team hereby declares:

1. *Recommendation to Stay at Home or Place of Residence.* It is recommended that all individuals present within the Oneida Reservation stay at home or at their place of residence to reduce contact spread of COVID-19.
2. *Business Operations.* All businesses within the Oneida Reservation are encouraged to maintain public health safety protocols at least as stringent as those set by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation or the Center for Disease Controls, whichever is greater. Businesses should submit their safe business operations processes to the Public Health Officer for review and post the certificate issued by that office in a public place within the business along with a copy of the safe business operations processes.
3. *Prohibited Activities.* All public and private gatherings of more than 20 people that are not part of a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes expressly permitted in this Declaration or as provided in paragraph 2 above. Nothing in this Declaration prohibits the gathering of members of a single household or living unit. Landlords or rental property managers shall avoid entering leased residential premises unless emergency maintenance is required.
4. *Closures.* The following governmental facilities shall remain closed:
  - a. *Schools.* Public and private K-12 schools shall remain closed for pupil instruction and extracurricular activities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools may continue to facilitate distance learning or virtual learning. Schools may continue to be used for Essential Government Functions and food distribution.
  - b. *Libraries.* Public libraries shall remain closed for all in-person services, except that they may provide the following services:
    - i. On-line services and programming.
    - ii. Curb-side pick-up of books and other library materials, if all operations are performed by one person in a room or confined space. Materials must be requested online or by phone before pick-up. The library may not require a signature from the patron. The library must schedule pick-ups to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 16 of the Safer at Home Declaration.
5. *Playgrounds and Parks.* Public parks and open space are reopened. Provided that, notices shall be placed at playgrounds and public parks that public restroom facilities and drinking fountains shall remain closed. Provided further that the Public Health Officer, if any of the following occur:
  - a. The number of people frequenting the area at one time makes it difficult to comply with Social Distancing Requirements.
  - b. Repeated vandalism or disturbing the peace.

- c. Repeated violations of the Safer at Home Declaration that create a risk to individuals in the area.
- 6. *Public Transit.* Individuals riding on public transit shall wear face masks and must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent possible.
- 7. *Elderly and At-Risk Persons.* Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of underlying health conditions should take additional precautions. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their home or residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. Nothing in this Declaration prevents the Public Health Officer from issuing and enforcing isolation and quarantine orders pursuant to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Law, Chapter 302.
- 8. *Travel.* Individuals are strongly encouraged to remain at their primary residence or home. Travel to second homes or residences should be avoided if possible. Individuals engaged in any travel must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the extent possible.
- 9. *Social Distancing Requirements.* For purposes of this Declaration, Social Distancing Requirements includes:
  - a. Maintaining social distancing of six (6) feet between people;
  - b. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer;
  - c. Covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);
  - d. Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
  - e. Not shaking hands; and
  - f. Following all other public health recommendations issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

#### **ENFORCEMENT AND APPLICABILITY**

- 10. *Enforcement.* This Declaration is enforceable by any local law enforcement official. Violation or obstruction of this Declaration is punishable by a fine up to \$200 in accordance with the *Declaration: Emergency Management and Homeland Security Law Fine and Penalty Schedule*, issued March 19, 2020.
- 11. *Severability.* If any provision of this Declaration or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Declaration, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Declaration are severable.
- 12. *Supremacy.* This Declaration supersedes any prior Declaration that conflicts with this Declaration.
- 13. *Duration.* This Declaration shall become effective at on June 11, 2020. This Declaration shall remain in effect consistent with Oneida Business Committee resolution # BC-06-09-2020-A, *Extension of Public Health State of Emergency Until July 12<sup>th</sup>*, or as may be extended under authority of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Law.

  
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Oneida Nation Chairman