

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

March 14, 2020 – State of Health Emergency Regarding COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic; Health and Safety Measures

The following measures are being implemented immediately as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1. The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council has implemented a ban on all FBIC employee and Councilmember travel until further notice. All local government entities are strongly recommended to follow suit.**
- 2. All FBIC Program Directors and Program Managers are to report to work at regular business hours 8:00 a.m. on March 16, 2020. Each Director/Program Manager is directed to designate one employee from their department/program to come in with them to assist in providing services, processing payroll, and answering phones to the public. All other FBIC Tribal Employees will be granted 8 hours of Administrative leave pending the outcome of a mandatory Directors meeting to be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Belknap Housing conference room.**
- 3. All persons, including FBIC employees who have travelled outside of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation to areas that have been affected by the COVID-19 should SELF-QUARANTINE themselves for 14 days. This includes recent basketball tournaments or have travelled in or out of state.**
- 4. All persons who are elderly, have compromised immune systems or are sick are encouraged to stay at home.**
- 5. HALL RENTALS: All community events will be postponed until further notice and community centers will not be rented for public or family events, except for funeral services. Large gatherings are discouraged at this time.**
- 6. CURFEW: A curfew of 10 p.m. will be imposed until further notice and enforced by the FBIC Law Enforcement Department.**

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council and staff are currently coordinating services to best address the threat of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The Council has authorized a Task Force and an Incident Command Center is being implemented to provide coordination. Continuous coordination with BIA, IHS and State agencies has been on-going. The public will be updated as soon as new information is obtained.

We are coordinating with the local schools and boarding schools to make sure our students are taken care of. The school systems will decide tomorrow, Monday, March 16, 2020 whether they will close the schools for 14 days.

We will still be providing services to the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

We remind everyone that there are no active cases within the Fort Belknap Indian Community at this time and that the pro-active preventive measures we are taking will aid us in case we should need them. Thank you for your cooperation for the benefit of the Fort Belknap Indian Community.