



*March 20, 2020*

### **Chairman Sullivan Video Statement**

This past week has been difficult, but I want to start by sharing good news: We still have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community. This means the steps we're taking are working. Thank you for everything you've been doing to protect yourself and others.

We've taken additional measures to keep our community safe. This past Wednesday, we closed down Tribal government except for essential services. This will be in effect until April 24.

Our Tribal Administration building will remain open from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Destiny will be at the front desk to answer questions. Our preference is that you call versus visiting in person.

Our Medical offices will remain open with regular business hours. We do have a COVID-19 testing site that can be used by PGST members and staff. If you are sick, please call the Medical Clinic to set up an appointment. Please do not show up in person without an appointment. This is important to help us maintain the social distancing necessary to keep our entire community safe.

Tribal Police will be operating as normal to protect our community. Fisheries will also continue normally as possible.

Many of our departments are running on a limited basis, including Wellness, Youth Center, Court Services, and Early Childhood. If your child is in an Early Childhood program, they will be screened every day before being allowed to enter the building.

If you have a school aged child at home because of school closures, please visit [NKSCHOOLS.ORG](http://NKSCHOOLS.ORG) for educational resources to keep your student busy and continuing to learn.

The school district is also providing sack lunches for all students. Youth staff are handing these out Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

We are also doing everything we can to ensure our Elders are safe and taken care of. We have asked all Elders to stay inside their homes as much as possible. Beginning March 23, frozen meals will be delivered weekly to each Elder home signed up for the service.

If you're an Elder in our community and need anything, please do not hesitate to call for help.

The Point Casino & Hotel has also closed for at least the rest of this month. Other Tribal businesses will remain open, but with social distancing protocols. Customers who show signs of illness will be asked to leave.

We understand that these are difficult times with many members in our community struggling. To help ease some burden, we are issuing a \$200 VISA card to each Tribal member household. These will be handed out on March 30. More details will come soon.

In addition, Easter vouchers will be distributed until Wednesday, March 25 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Children and Families Building.

These are trying times and there's a lot of uncertainty. We're all feeling it. Our team is doing our best to make decisions that will protect our community and get that information to you as quickly as possible. If you have access to the Internet, I encourage you to follow our Facebook page where we post all current info and answer questions from the community.

All information about closures, available services, and suggested precautionary measures can also be found on our website.. This includes phone numbers to departments with limited services during the closure.

I want to thank you again for everything you're doing to help keep yourself healthy and protect our community. I know we're asking a lot of you and your family, but the hope is we can keep everyone healthy and safe. So, please, keep washing your hands and practicing social distancing. Have your kids do the same. We are also encouraging everyone to stay home.

I would also encourage you to check on the Elders in your life or anyone else who is vulnerable or isolated. Send a text or call them up to see how they are or if they need anything. The only way we get through this is together.