



# Community Newsletter

## March 31, 2020

### AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

#### Community Government

42507 W. Peters & Nall Road • Maricopa, Arizona 85138 • Telephone: (520) 568-1000 • Fax: (520) 568-1001

March 30, 2020

Ak-Chin Membership,

First, we're hoping and praying that you and your families are doing well during this period of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The health and safety of the Ak-Chin Community is our highest priority. With that in mind, we want to update you on proactive steps being taken to safeguard Members and residents from the global outbreak of the coronavirus.

On March 27, 2020 the Ak-Chin Community Council declared a State of Emergency due to the growing public health threat posed by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Community has yet to report a positive coronavirus case, but confirmed case numbers are growing in Pinal County and across Arizona.

The emergency declaration authorizes Community leadership to protect public health by:

- Activating the Emergency Operation Center to coordinate the Tribe's response efforts;
- Allowing utilization of all necessary funds, resources and equipment to mitigate the outbreak;
- Ordering public facilities to be disinfected, as necessary;
- Identifying specific Tribal employees to receive specialized COVID-19 training;
- Coordinating and receiving technical assistance from local, state, federal and tribal authorities.

It is important that each of us be vigilant. The Council, Community Directors and Community partners remain informed, engaged and prepared to help meet the evolving challenges resulting from the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Community Council is continuing to taking proactive measures to protect high-risk populations and reduce risk for spread of the virus. The Community Council would like to inform the Members and residents about the following:

- The Community has cancelled all programs, events, and gatherings at Tribal facilities, including but not limited to the following: Service Center, Recreation Center, Elder Center, Education Department, Preschool and Child Care, Language Department, Him-Dak Museum and Library. Parks will remain open.
- The elders' meal program will continue, but meals will be on a take-out or home-delivery basis only.
- Trash pick-up for residents will still be on Monday and Friday mornings. On Wednesdays the roll off bins will be emptied.
- Vekol Market: Hours of operation are now 8a-5p Monday-Sunday. The Deli area is open with a small menu for take-out items only. **Please call 520.568.1654 to place orders.**
- **Housing and Maintenance Departments are closed. If you have any emergency housing maintenance issues please utilize the current On-call system by calling 520.568.1200 to report your housing maintenance issues.**
- Public Safety: Police and Fire are operating & maintaining a normal schedule. For emergencies please call 911.
- **Ak-Chin Clinic is open Monday-Friday 8a-12p & 1p-5p. The clinic's numbers are 520.568.3881 or 520.568.3882.**
- All Arizona schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Please check your local school's website for any updates and changes regarding homework and assignments for your student(s).
- Members are encouraged to apply for the Commodity Food Distribution Program (application is attached). Please keep in mind if you currently receive Food Stamps, you will not be eligible for the Commodity Food Distribution Program. If you receive Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) benefits you can apply and MAY be eligible for the Commodity Food Distribution Program.
- Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort and the UltraStar Multi-tainment Center are closed until further notice.

The Community is identifying the extreme essential needs that are a top priority for many and may be lacking in super markets and other outlets. The opportunity to possibly purchase and distribute essential items are a topic of discussion.

It is also great to hear that members are continuing to communicate, support, provide and give welfare checks on and with their families and for those who they've cared for throughout their lives. A trait and practice that identifies Ak-Chin.

Council Members are currently operating and maintaining normal office hours Monday-Friday 8a-5p.

**The main office number is 520.568.1000.** Members are encouraged to reach out to Council Members personally and provide their comments and concerns. They are important and will be addressed.

Updates with the COVID-19 are occurring on a daily basis. The Council is doing its best to stay engaged with the Community's Members and residents by providing the most current and accurate information as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. Let's continue to pray and hope for the best for all during this stressful and trying time. We're all in this together.

Sapo!

Robert Miguel,  
Chairman

Gabriel Lopez,  
Vice-Chairman

Delia Carlyle,  
Council Member

Lisa Garcia,  
Council Member

Octavio Machado,  
Council Member



Due to COVID-19, the Community Council has designated the following department closures or provide limited services until April 6, 2020.

However, Community Council may determine to extend department closures or limited services.

#### Closed Departments

Health Education  
 Preschool and Daycare  
 Him-Dak Museum and Achieves  
 Transit  
 Parks and Recreation  
 Library  
 Education and Language  
 Runner  
 Planning and Development  
 Community Events

#### Departments with limited Services or On-Call

Sanitation and Public Works – Trash pickup and On-Call Emergencies  
 Housing – On-Call Emergencies  
 Health and Human Behavior – On-Call  
 Elder Center – Elder Lunch Delivery Only  
 Maintenance – On-Call Emergencies  
 EPD – Water and Wastewater Operation On-Call  
 Information Systems – Limited Services  
 Capital Projects – Limited Services  
 Police/Communications/Detention – Limited Services  
 Courts – Limited Service  
 Prosecutor – Limited Services  
 Public Defender – Limited Services  
 Fire – Limited Services  
 Human Resources – Limited Services  
 Finance – Limited Services  
 Airport – Limited services

The Community Council is closely monitoring information regarding the virus and had made these determinations to keep the community membership, staff, and general public safe. It is in accordance to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and to assist in keeping the population from the spread of the illness.

As information develops it will be evaluated and provided to the Community as it unfolds.

For further questions call: Community Government Office 568-1000.

## Help Stop the Spread

Even if you are young or otherwise healthy, you are still at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that everyone does his/ her part to stop the spread of the coronavirus:

- Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.
- If you work in a critical infrastructure industry as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, maintain your normal work schedule.
- Follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Avoid eating or drinking in bars, restaurants and food courts. Use drive-thru, pickup or delivery options whenever possible.
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips and social visits.
- Do not visit nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Practice good hygiene:
  - ◊ Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently - used item or surface.
  - ◊ Avoid touching your face.
  - ◊ Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
  - ◊ Disinfect frequently-used items and surfaces, as much as possible.

## AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY On-Call Numbers

### On-Call Housing

**(520) 568-1200** - for housing emergency assistance

### On-Call Maintenance

**(520) 568-1200** - for emergency repairs

### On-Call Sanitation/Public Works

**(520) 510-9202** – Trash pick up

### On-Call Water Operator

**(520) 858-6061** – for water & sewer line breaks; fire hydrants; backflow prevention; sewer backups outside facilities; Arizona 811 (Blue Stake) questions

### On-Call Wastewater Operator

**(520) 858-6999** – for the Water Reclamation Facility and reclaimed water issues

### On-Call Surface Water Treatment Plant

**(520) 483-6825** – for potable water treatment and coordination on repairs to the Ak-Chin potable water system

### On-Call Central Plant

**(480) 244-9718** - for Central Plant/chilled water/HVAC at UltraStar, Harrah's and Ak-Chin Justice Center

## Ak-Chin Indian Community Health and Human Services

### Notice of Closure and On Call Services

Effective March 23, 2020 the Health and Human Services Department will be closed until further notice.

The following services can be accessed by calling the following staff and numbers:

- ♦ CPS Referrals: Susan Cons 520-251-3992
- ♦ Adult Protective Services: Penny Harris 520-510-7810
- ♦ Behavioral Health Crises:
  - Job Elliott 520-705-4296
  - Lynne Houston-Volden 520- 705-3972
  - Burial Assistance - Penny Harris 520-510-7810

*Any other questions or concerns contact:*

*Pamela Thompson,*

*HHS Director*

*480-858-5003*

# PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH

- Baby wipes
- Facial wipes
- Disinfectant wipes
- Paper towels / towelettes
- Dust / mop refills



*Thank you from Ak-Chin Maintenance  
& Environmental Protection Dept. /  
Wastewater*