

# THE NAVAJO NATION

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JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

## MEMORANDUM

TO: NAVAJO NATION EXECUTIVE BRANCH

FROM:



Jonathan Nez, *President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, *Vice President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE : March 3, 2020

RE: TRAVEL ADVISORY RELATED TO COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS

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As we learn more information about the COVID-19/novel coronavirus developments and the increasing concerns regarding the global spread of the COVID-19 virus, the health and well-being of our Navajo people is the top priority for the Nez-Lizer Administration, and this includes all of our Navajo Nation employees. At the time of this memorandum, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

We have directed all Divisions, Departments, and Programs to limit work-related travel due the growing concerns over the COVID-19 virus. We implore all Division Directors to use their best discretion to limit unnecessary travel for Navajo Nation employees. Division Directors will determine whether travel requests for their employees are “essential travel” on a case-by-case basis in order to reduce risks. All Division Directors are required to obtain approval from the Office of the President and Vice President for their work-related travel requests.

For work-related meetings/events held off of the Navajo Nation, we recommend the following:

- Attending meetings/events/training by using teleconference calls/video rather than traveling off the Navajo Nation
- Staying home or working from home if you have symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Avoiding contact with people with sicknesses/symptoms

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- Cleaning/sanitizing your workplaces/office space routinely

If you have shortness of breath or have difficulty breathing, please report to your local physician and/or emergency room hospital. Call ahead to allow the facility to prepare for your arrival.

On February 27, the Office of the President and Vice President established the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team to monitor, plan, prepare, and coordinate precautionary efforts to address COVID-19. It is incumbent upon us, as individuals, to take precautionary measures including washing your hands frequently, staying home when sick, avoiding contact with those who are sick, and limiting travel to reduce the spread of germs and decrease exposure risk.

The COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue developing preparedness efforts to address the possible exposure of the Navajo Nation to the COVID – 19. Included in this preparedness planning will be monitoring, communication, coordination, health care readiness and preparation, and health care management with regional hospitals and clinics. The Team is also tasked with providing clear and timely information to the Navajo elderly population regarding the coronavirus, in both the English and Navajo languages.

On February 27, the Navajo Department of Health implemented its Health Command Center and activated the planning section to coordinate public health preparedness and response planning. The Navajo Nation Division of Emergency Management has plans in place to activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The duties and responsibilities of the Navajo Department of Health and Division of Emergency Management may expand as this effort unfolds and new developments occur. We, along with the Preparedness Team, will closely monitor the situation and will update the Navajo Nation travel policy as necessary. We also encourage all Navajo Nation employees to visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for daily updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.