



POARCH BAND of CREEK INDIANS

March 27, 2020

To Our Poarch Creek Family,

I feel like the reality of our current situation is really setting in, and everyone's patience and faith is being put to the test. While you may only see me as the Chairwoman, I'm also a mother and grandmother. Just like you, I'm concerned about the safety of our families, our community, and our world.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is centered on family and community, and we believe in the value our employees bring to our organization and businesses. These are the individuals that are on the frontlines and help generate revenue and success for the Tribe. For that reason, we have continued to pay employees so they can take care of self and family and return to work when that time comes.

Please bear in mind that our staff has been greatly decreased and services are limited. However, we do have two hotlines available for questions you might have. The health hotline is 251.446.4890, and the family services hotline is 251.446.4930.

It is critically important that you and your family members understand this virus moves quickly and is potentially deadly, especially to the elderly, people with diabetes or cancer, and those who have weakened immune systems. Just because you feel healthy doesn't mean you're not a carrier of this virus, so please don't tempt fate.

Make sure you're doing your part to flatten the curve. Follow the guidelines that medical experts have shared which means staying at home, not gathering in groups, and only getting out when absolutely necessary. When you must get out, practice social distancing --- that means putting 6 feet between you and people around you. And most important, always wash your hands. **Let me be clear, if you don't do these things, you are putting yourself at risk, and you're risking the lives of others.**

Even though we're confined to the walls of our home, we can still stay connected and show our love for one another in creative ways, no matter the distance between us. Make sure you are checking in on your family, friends, and our elders by calling or texting them. Technology has created ways for us to bridge the barriers that separate us now, so let's use all those smart phones, tablets, and computers to our advantage.

The change in the weather and everything blooming has me thinking a lot about my Uncle Otha who always planted a big garden. Planting a garden is something that each of us can do. It's an activity we can share with children who are home from school, and it is work we can do right now that will produce great benefits in just a few weeks.

The weeks and months ahead are full of uncertainty. But I think we should all take comfort in knowing that **we are all in this together and it will not last forever.** Let's use this time to remember what is really important. Find ways to uplift, encourage, and help each other.

As we look forward, I would ask that each of you continue to pray for all of our leaders, our community, our country, and our world. May God continue to bless and keep His hands upon you, your family, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and our great Nation.

Mvto,



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Tribal Chair and CEO

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