



POARCH BAND of CREEK INDIANS

May 28, 2020

Dear Poarch Creek Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. From the very beginnings of this situation, we made an unwavering commitment to do our part to stop the spread of the virus and flatten the curve. We took great care and caution to change how we work and how we interact with one another because our first and foremost concern is about the health and well-being of Tribal Members, employees, patrons, and our community. On behalf of Tribal Council, we thank the executive teams, management, and all workers across every entity that have been working on the frontlines.

Over the past few weeks, our management teams have been in daily contact with officials and decision-makers as the Coronavirus pandemic has continued to unfold. We've worked tirelessly to implement best practices as new information becomes available in an effort to reduce the number of new cases and keep our communities as safe as possible.

Now, we are entering a new phase of this difficult time. Like the rest of America, we are slowly and cautiously trying to reopen. While we are eager to resume "business as usual", we cannot take unnecessary risks that could jeopardize safety. We must go very slowly in resuming a sense of normalcy. We do not want to reopen too rapidly and risk a setback in the progress we've made.

We appreciate your understanding and adherence to the new safety measures that we put into place. But it is important for all of us to recognize that we are not out of the woods yet. Hot spots still remain, and as we begin opening our community to visitors, this is a time when we need to be more diligent than ever before by following the CDC guidelines. This includes wearing masks, staying 6 feet away from one another, washing your hands often, and sanitizing surfaces regularly.

We also have to remember that there are unique challenges we face as an Indian Tribe in rural America. Our close community means the virus has opportunities to spread. It is especially important for us to remember that historically, Indian country is particularly vulnerable to the devastating effects of viruses. Today, sadly, history is repeating itself as COVID-19 is now hitting Indian Nations particularly hard, especially the Navajo nation.

These are facts that we will not downplay or ignore. Therefore, I **cannot emphasize enough** that, while we are preparing to resume operations, we are doing so with an abundance of caution. Even as businesses and services throughout America begin to reopen, we must maintain a commitment to doing everything we can to keep ourselves and those we care about safe.

The following information provides our phased reopening approach for our Tribal properties.

May God continue to keep you and your loved ones safe. Together, we will get through this.

Mvto (thank you),

Stephanie A. Bryan
Tribal Chair and CEO

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TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

We are thankful for all of our employees who have been working throughout this event and have gone above and beyond to continue providing essential services to Tribal Members. Beginning June 1, 2020, Tribal Government will begin reintegrating the workforce in a phased approach. In Phase I, we are moving from essential operations to expanding a more normal operational status in the safest possible manner in accordance with CDC guidelines.

On June 10th, the Executive Team, in consultation with the Tribal Council, will have further discussions on moving to Phase II integrating additional staff and services. Phase III will be the final phase which entails all staff returning to campus. Each phase will continue to adhere to CDC Guidelines related to COVID-19.

In preparation for employees' reintegration to the workplace, each employee will be provided personal protection training prior to returning to work to ensure their safety. We are currently assessing assistance that may be available in the future for Tribal Members who may have been adversely affected by Covid-19, such as a loss of income -- additional information will be forthcoming.

Our utmost priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of the Poarch Community and our employees while providing the highest level of services to Tribal Members and their families during these unprecedented times.

Operational updates will continue to be provided as they become available.

- *Terry Sweat, Chief of Staff for Tribal Government*

WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY

As of May 26th, WCH employees are reporting back to their properties in Alabama ahead of reopening. Throughout the rest of the week they will undergo training and work to restart the various systems and equipment that has been idle since we shut down. On June 4th, players will return to our Alabama Wind Creek Properties through an invitation only event for our high value players. We will conduct several more invited events thereafter and then open the properties to the public.

Wind Creek Bethlehem remains closed and will remain so until permission is granted by Commonwealth officials to reopen. In Pennsylvania, officials have issued a system that classifies businesses by function and it creates conditions called Red, Yellow, and Green that signify varying levels of COVID-19 transmission within an area. Commonwealth officials have indicated that casinos will not be allowed to reopen until the "Green" condition is met. Wind Creek Bethlehem's regions will move to "Yellow Status" on June 5th.

The Renaissance property in Curacao was able to reopen its casino on Friday, May 22nd. Officials of Curacao are allowing casinos to be open from 10A to 7P. As part of reopening the island, officials are implementing a process that focuses on Island residents first, then business travel, and then international tourism but it will initially be focused on visitors from Europe and in particular Holland. Not stated in the reopening plan but inferable is that people from countries with active caseloads may not be able to initially travel to Curacao.

- *Jay Dorris, President and CEO of WCH*

CREEK INDIAN ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

First, I would like to thank all our team members that have worked so hard through this pandemic. Because the majority of CIE-owned businesses are essential in nature, most of our businesses have remained open throughout this trying time. I cannot praise our team members enough for all they have done over the past 10 weeks. Not only have they continued to perform at a high level but they have also stepped into new roles as needed. In fact, the team at Muskogee Tech was able to help out the community by producing masks and surgical gowns for medical workers, first responders, and their fellow team members that needed them. I could not be prouder of the team and all they have done as well as being a part of this great Tribe.

Now that the Governor has lifted the restrictions on entertainment venues, CIE will continue down the path of "new normalcy" by reopening OWA. We are currently working on bringing back our team members to Foley and training them on new policies and procedures to make the Park as safe as possible. If all goes well and our plans are affirmed, we look to getting back to the business of fun in early June. Our hope is to be open The Park on Friday, June 5, however, this is contingent on some safety reviews and approvals. However, the restaurants and shops are currently open at OWA and we are working with Legends to get them ready as well.

Additionally, the CIE offices will begin to get back to normal in early June. We will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 and plans are subject to change, so please call us before you stop by. Stay safe!

- *Cody Williamson, President and CEO of CIEDA*

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