Board of Trustees Order

On March 23, 2020, the CTUIR Board of Trustees polled and adopted Resolution 20-028, which ordered for funerals and large gatherings to be conducted in a manner that does not conflict with the limitations of social distancing.

State of Oregon Order

On March 23, 2020, Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order 20-12, directing everyone in Oregon to stay at home to the maximum extent possible. The order is effective immediately, and remains in effect until ended by the Governor.

Funeral/Large Gathering Guidelines for Compliance of Social Distancing

As COVID-19 continues to spread in the surrounding areas, it is imperative that social distancing guidelines are followed to control the spread of COVID-19 throughout our community and within the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, decrease the burdens on hospitals and equipment supplies, and lessen the number of infections and deaths caused by this disease.

Dressing

It is recommended that mortuary staff conduct the dressing for all bodies. Tribal members may be present to offer the song and prayer while standing a safe distance away from others.

In cases where someone has died of COVID-19, the body should not be touched prior to being prepared for viewing. Anyone assisting in preparing the body should wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, isolation gown, face shield or goggles, and facemask, to protect face, body and eyes from potential exposure.

Services

The Longhouse is available for Washat services. Up to 50 individuals are able to attend services taking place indoors. Graveside or other outdoor services may have up to 100 individuals in attendance. All attendees are advised to follow by the recommendations below:

1) Do not attend if you are feeling sick.
2) All individuals maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person who is not a member of their immediate household.
3) Cloth masks are recommended for all attendees.
4) Restrict the use of pall bearers to the minimum number necessary, eight or less.
5) Attendees whom wish to attend and remain in their vehicles while maintaining social distancing will not be subject to self-quarantine.
Limit Attendance
Attendance is limited to either 50 people for services occurring indoors or 100 people for services taking place outdoors. Request all those who are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms to stay home.

All attendees should self-quarantine for 14 days following attendance.

Protect Elders
Elders and those with underlying health conditions such as COPD, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or heart disease, who are most at risk for a serious viral infection, should not attend.

If elders are in attendance, it should be a priority that all attendees limit contact with elders and provide them ample space (6 feet) to follow social distancing.

Limit Person to Person Contact
Even though someone is not feeling sick, they still could have the novel coronavirus and pass it to others. Limiting contact with others is the best way to ensure the virus does not spread. This includes:

- All attendees wear cloth masks and wash hands frequently. If there are no hand washing stations, hand sanitizer should be used frequently and after handling any items that are handled by multiple people
- Use disinfecting wipes on all hard surfaces and prioritize multiple cleanings to surfaces that will be touched frequently such as door handles
- Standing 6 feet away from others who are not a member of your immediate household
- No handshakes, hugs or physical touch
- If food is being provided, as few people as possible should serve it. It should not be buffet style. Those serving should practice good hand washing, wear gloves, wear masks and frequently sanitize all serving utensils.
- Tables and chairs should be set for every other space
- Give-away items should be either avoided or held at another time

Attendance Tracking
One attendee will be responsible for logging the names of all attendees. This attendance log will be provided to the Public Health Officer at Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center and will be kept confidentially. This log will be used in the event that a funeral attendee tests positive for COVID-19 in the two weeks following the funeral and all funeral attendees need to be notified that they may have been exposed.