



Tohono O'odham Nation
Office of the
Chairman and Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



**DECLARATION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION PROCLAIMING A
STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

No. 2020-01

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) was identified as a new type of coronavirus disease in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China. The respiratory illness ranges from cold-like illness to severe pneumonia; symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath, that is spread person-to-person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019) outbreak on January 31, 2020, and the World Health Organization officially declared a pandemic due to COVID-19 on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Center for Disease Control has reported 1,629 confirmed and presumptive positive cases in the United States, and has recorded 41 COVID-19 related deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Department of Health Services and local public health departments have identified 9 cases of COVID-19 in Arizona, including cases spreading in the community, and have additional patients under investigation linked to the global outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the Nation's members and other persons who serve the Nation is of the highest priority of the Administration and the Chairman of the Nation recognizes the urgent need to formalize a centralized location for distributing resources and receiving and disseminating information related to COVID-19 to the public in order to keep the Nation's members apprised of important information and to reduce the spread of misinformation; and

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation vests all Executive Powers to the Chairman and the authority to declare a state of emergency has traditionally rested with the Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure the spread of COVID-19 is controlled and that members of the Nation remain safe and healthy; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the authority vested in the Chairman under Article VII of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Chairman hereby declares a State of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman establishes the Unified Command in order to centralize the Nation's efforts in response to COVID-19.

ORDERED this 13th Day of March, 2020 in Sells, Arizona.



Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation