Leadership with Loyalty, Integrity & Wisdom

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

Ned Norris Jr.   Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman   Vice Chairwoman

Public Service Announcement
Patient Confidentiality

Over the last week, Tohono O'odham Nation Health Officials along with the Unified Command have been made aware of Tohono O'odham members who have tested positive for the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Like the majority of the United States, as more test results are being performed, it is expected that the Nation will continue to see an increase in positive tests.

During these trying times it is important that we recognize, we are all in this together. While it is important to ensure that communities remain as safe as possible, and we all exercise good judgement and take the appropriate precautions. It is also equally important to maintain the HIPAA Patient Privacy Rights Act to ensure the privacy of those affected by this virus. Patient identity and personal information, including residency, will not be disclosed. Disclosure of information would be a violation of federal law.

It is important for everyone to understand that when a confirmed case is identified, there is a follow-up investigation by health care officials in an attempt to identify any others who may have come into contact with the affected individual. There is also a protocol prescribed for both the individual who tests positive and for those who are, or who may have come into contact with the affected individual.

During this time we ask for your vigilance in keeping everyone as healthy as possible along with your patience and understanding as we all work to keep the Nation as safe and healthy as possible.

Information regarding coronavirus COVID-19 is updated frequently on the Tohono O'odham Nation Health Care webpage at www.tonhc.org/coronavirus and on the Office of Emergency Management Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/TON.Emergency.Management/.

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