



P.O. BOX 910 • SELLS, ARIZONA 85634-0910 • (520) 383-2281 • FAX (520) 383-3096

SELLS DISTRICT COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(Supporting COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts of the Tohono O'odham Nation and Requiring the Use of Mask/Face Coverings Within the Boundaries of The Sells District)

RESOLUTION NO. SD-79-20

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Tohono O'odham Nation Constitution Article IX section 5 districts shall govern itself in matters of local concern, except that in any matter involving more than one district in which there is a dispute, the Tohono O'odham Council shall decide the matter; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 13th, 2020 the Tohono O'odham Nation Executive Office declared a State of Emergency on the Tohono O'odham Nation due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a virus that is spread person-to-person uniquely through aerosol droplets in the air, highly contagious and spread by those infected and symptomatic including by individuals who could be asymptomatic; and
- WHEREAS,** by establishing a state of emergency the Nation held in high regard its mission to protect the health and wellbeing of the Tohono O'odham Nation members and since that declaration there has been a disproportionate increase in cases across the United States, Arizona, Pima County and the Tohono O'odham Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 16th 2020 the Sells District Administration in response to the outbreak implemented protocols that established guidelines for the continued operation of the District Office and it's services with emphasis on its protocol to suspend Elder Gatherings and Youth Outreach to adhere to the guidelines set forth to mitigate and prevent further spread of the disease by not convening in groups larger than 10 individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 23rd, 2020 the Sells District Administration submitted to the Sells District Council it's Memorandum addressing and advising against converging and avoiding social gatherings of more than 10 individuals stating it is inadvisable to continue with large gatherings, community meetings and again risk any exposure of the general public and our community members; and
- WHEREAS,** on April 13th, 2020 the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) released guidance and recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies etc.) and especially in areas of significant community-based transmission; and

WHEREAS, on April 20th , 2020 the Sells District Administration released updated guidance via a PSA to the public and the Nation urging the need to further focus the approach of the Nation to further put in place mitigation efforts to slow the spread of the virus, and encouraged all members and visitors of the District who must be in the public wear face coverings or masks; and

WHEREAS, on May 15th, 2020 the Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation reaffirmed the standing stay at home order further stating "we must continue to take measures to protect our most valuable resource: our people – we ask that you be aware of your actions while out and take all recommended precautions, including wearing a face covering" and;

WHEREAS, the Sells District Council hereby after consideration and further understanding that there is a unique opportunity to proactively protect the health and wellness of the public as a whole by requiring the use of masks/face coverings in the Sells District, and while recommendations and guides are useful their affirmed resolve and leadership may be of deeper supportive consideration to the next steps the Nation will take to defeat this virus and protect the people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sells District Council hereby within its authority to address matters of local concern and who declared a state of emergency in the Sells District in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic supports the effort of the Tohono O'odham Nation in its task to lower the risk of spread of COVID-19 and hereby declares that masks/face coverings be required by all members, visitors and patrons of the Sells District.

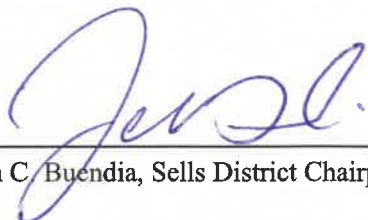
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution will be lifted and rescinded by resolution once the aforementioned advisements are lifted and normal continuity of Community and District business may be conducted.

CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Sells District Council at a regular meeting held on the Twenty-Sixth (26th) day of May, the year Two Thousand & Twenty (2020), at which a quorum was present by a vote of **20 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 NOT VOTING & 1 ABSENT.**

Motioned By: Larry Wilson

Second By: Louella Martinez



Juan C. Buendia, Sells District Chairperson

ATTEST: 

Bruce G. Garcia, Sells District Vice Chairperson