



September 3, 2021

Dear Leader of the Gila River Indian Community's Faith Community,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the responsibility of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) to ensure the safety of all members, employees, and congregations of our faith-based communities as well as traditional gatherings.

As O'otham and Pee-Posh people, gathering is at the core of our Himdag (culture), and we understand the need to embrace worship as an essential part of life, especially during the pandemic. We understand that as part of your faith tradition that gathering is essential, especially during the holidays. But as a Community we are now aware, gatherings present a risk for increasing spread of COVID-19.

For the safety of all, the purpose of this correspondence is to make you aware of and to respectfully request the following:

1. Adherence to current GRIC Executive Orders is crucial to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
 - a. CDC Guidelines can also be found here for your reference: [CDC Faith Based Organization Guidelines](#)
2. Submit a request to the GRIC Executive Office if your faith-based organization is planning to hold services.
 - a. The request should outline how the organization will ensure public health measures will be followed to protect the safety of its members.
 - b. The attached Faith Based Organization Plan can be used and submitted as the request. The organization simply needs to insert their organization's name, agree to adhere to all components of the plan, sign and submit to the Executive Office.
 - c. The GRIC Executive Office shall only approve community-sponsored gatherings that are more than the current Executive Order that:
 - i. Are determined to be paramount to the Community's interests and could be seriously affected or jeopardized if the gathering did not take place;
and
 - ii. Are conducted in accordance with physical distancing and public health measures.
3. If your organization received approval to hold services with their faith-based organization, the coordinator or the organizations authorizing person shall ensure all components are adhered to during the service.

We thank you in advance for adhering to the guidelines to protect our Community. If you have questions, please contact the Tribal Health Department at (520) 562-5100.

Respectfully,

On behalf of the Governor Lewis COVID-19 Task Force Unified Command, Incident Management Team

Candalerian Preston, Director Tribal Health

Bruce Harvey, Director of Office of Emergency Management

Division Chief Patrick Peterson, Emergency Medical Services Division Chief



Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 Task Force

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATION PLAN

This guidance shall establish and explain the necessary policies, practices and conditions necessary to meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Gila River Indian Community guidelines and standards. The plan should have the strong commitment of the organizational leadership and be implemented with the participation of any staff and volunteers. Plan must be submitted a minimum of 14 days in advance of the event. The Community’s COVID-19 Task Force may provide **technical guidance** when requested but any deviance from this established plan will require further approval via the following process;



COVID-19 Resources:

<p>Gila River Indian Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRIC Community Updates (including Exec Orders) • GRIC Emergency Operations Center (Situation Room/Plans) • Gila River Health Care’s The Hub <p>Arizona Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona Executive Orders • Re-Opening Guidance Releases • Arizona Department of Health Services • Guidance On Screening of Visitors 	<p>Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit for Faith Based Organizations • Community Organizations and Gatherings • Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Facility • Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Vehicles • How to Select, Wear and Clean Your Mask • Handwashing Information • Handwashing Video
--	---

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Faith Based Organizations

_____ is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all of our staff, volunteers, members and guests. To ensure we have as safe and healthy environment, we will follow the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizational leadership, staff and volunteers are all responsible for implementing and adhering to this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our places of worship. Only through this cooperative effort, can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our staff, volunteers, members and guests.

This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Health Department (GRIC THD) guidelines and all Gila River Indian Community Executive Orders. It addresses the following:

- Section 1: Infection prevention and housekeeping measures
- Section 2: Leadership, staff, members and visitor screening
- Section 3: Engineering and administrative controls for social/physical distancing
- Section 4: Communications and training for staff and volunteers necessary to implement the plan

Section 1: Infection Prevention & Housekeeping

- A. Livestream services are encouraged
- B. Services should be less than 60 minutes
- C. Encourage leadership, staff, volunteers, members and guests who are feeling ill or who have had any contact with a person suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 to stay home
- D. Facilities and restrooms must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each session
 - a. Bathrooms should be maintained with adequate amounts of soap
 - b. All hand drying supplies should be one person use (no shared towels)
- E. Masks should be required at all times
 - a. Provide a mask should someone not have one
- F. Hand sanitizing stations to be provided at entry and exits
- G. Doors should remain open during entrance and exit times
- H. Discourage hand holding, shaking hands, hugging other personal contact practices other than with family members of the same household
- I. No offertory (collection) passed around – money basket can be placed near entrance and/or exit
- J. No/or very limited direct contact ceremonies
- K. Communion distribution
 - a. Ministers of communion/sacrament will remove gloves before receiving communion
 - b. Ministers of communion/sacrament will wear a mask
 - c. Ministers of communion/sacrament will sanitize hands before and after distribution
 - d. Ministers of communion/sacrament will not place communion directly on a member's tongue

Section 2: Screening

- A. Ushers to provide touchless temperature checks prior to parishioner/guest entry
 - a. For temperatures above 100.4 the parishioner/guest should be sent home
- B. Signs with COVID-19 signs and symptoms should be clearly displayed at every entry with a “please do not enter clause”.

Section 3: Physical Distancing, Controls & Protections

- A. Any gatherings outside of spiritual services must follow the current Executive Order.
 - a. No gatherings in the facilities or feast houses - including feast days
- B. A facility can only have a max of 25% capacity for service attendance. Attendance capacity is met when the 6 feet criteria from each person cannot be met or a maximum of 25% capacity is met, whichever comes first.
 - a. Ushers will be responsible for counting capacity and enforcing this standard
- C. Develop a facility entry and exit flow with signage to decrease personal contact (this may have to be approved via Gila River Fire Department).
- D. Place control measures in seating and standing areas for a 6-foot standard
 - a. Physical distancing floor markings/signs during communion and exit
 - b. Physical barriers/signs in seating areas
 - c. Families from the same household are allowed to sit together

Section 4: Communications and Training

- A. Share this information on social media outlets prior to any gathering
- B. Share this information through other membership avenues prior to any gatherings
- C. Post information at entrances of facilities
- D. Organizational leadership will be responsible for training staff and volunteers prior to any gathering

Section 5: Implementation of the Plan

_____ will ensure the Faith Based Organization Plan has been reviewed and communicated and training has been provided to staff and volunteers prior to the services.

Certified by:

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attach additional documentation to this plan if required.

Notes:

[End Document]

Resources

- Toolkit for Faith Based Organizations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/community-faith-based.html>
- Resource: CDC Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- Resource: CDC Handwashing
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- Resource: CDC Coughing & Sneezing
https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html
- Resource: CDC Face Coverings
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Resource: CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>
- Considerations for Events & Gatherings
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>
- Resource: CDC Recommendations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
- Resource: GRIC IAP Section- PPE Optimization Guidance
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Resource: COVID Symptoms- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- Resource: CDC Symptoms of Coronavirus
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsymptoms.html
- Resource: CDC What to Do If You Are Sick
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>
- Resource: GRIC IAP Section- *Employee Screening & Sick Employee Guidance*
<https://www.gric-eoc.org/gric-iap.html>