



September 9, 2022

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

Governor Stephen R. Lewis issued Executive Order No. 16 which transitioned the Community into Phase III of our COVID-19 Phase Approach status. Under Phase III, there are no gathering limitations, provided physical distancing is maintained. This is applicable to faith based organizations. Requests to exceed the gathering limitations are not required in Phase III contingent the faith based organizations follow all other COVID-19 prevention measures when gathering or hosting an event.

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 organization continue to follow all other COVID-19 prevention measures:

Section 1: Infection Prevention & Housekeeping

- A. Livestream services are encouraged.
- B. Encourage leadership, staff, volunteers, members and quests who are feeling ill or who have had any contact with a person suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 to stay home.
- C. Facilities and restrooms must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each session.
 - i. Bathrooms should be maintained with adequate amounts of soap.
 - ii. All hand drying supplies should be one person use (no shared towels).
- D. Masks should be encouraged at all times. Masks are required in any tribal government building or while inside any school located within the reservation.
 - a. Provide a surgical mask should someone not have one.
- E. Hand sanitizing stations to be provided at entry and exits.
- F. Doors should remain open during entrance and exit times as much as possible to have adequate ventilation.
- G. Discourage hand holding, shaking hands, hugging, and other personal contact practices, other than with family members of the same household.
- H. Communion distribution
 - i. Encourage Ministers of communion/sacrament to wear gloves before receiving communion.
 - ii. Encourage Ministers of communion/sacrament to wear a surgical or KN95.
 - iii. Encourage Ministers of communion/sacrament to wash and sanitize hands before and after distribution.
 - iv. Encourage Ministers of communion/sacrament to avoid placing communion directly on a member's tongue.

Section 2: Screening

- A. Organization will require visitors/attendees to undergo a visitor health screening prior to entering the facility.
- B. The health screening questionnaire should be displayed at the entrance area (see attached Visitor health screening questionnaire). The organization will ask the visitors the screening questions. A form is not required to be completed. Visitors should not enter the building if they answer “Yes” to any of the questions.
- C. Signs with COVID-19 signs and symptoms should be clearly displayed at every entry.

Section 3: Physical Distancing, Controls & Protections

- A. Physical distancing control measures in seating and standing areas for a 6-foot standard
 - i. Physical distancing floor markings/signs during communion and exit
 - ii. Physical barriers/signs in seating areas
 - iii. Families from the same household are allowed to sit together

Section 4: Communications and Training

- A. Post information at entrances of facilities
- B. Organizational leadership will be responsible for training staff and volunteers prior to any gathering
- C. The coordinator or the organizations authorizing person shall ensure COVID-19 measures 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 of Tribal Health

Bruce Harvey, Director of Office of Emergency Management

Division Chief Patrick Peterson, Emergency Medical Services Division Chief



COVID-19 VISITOR HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

To ensure the health and well-being of the Community, all persons will be screened prior to entering the facility.

- 1. Are you experiencing any of these symptoms:**
 - a. Fever or chills
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Fatigue
 - e. Muscle or body aches
 - f. Headache
 - g. New loss of taste or smell
 - h. Sore throat
 - i. Congestion or runny nose
 - j. Nausea or vomiting
 - k. Diarrhea
- 2. Are you or anyone in your household awaiting COVID-19 test results from your healthcare provider?**
- 3. Are you currently under isolation and quarantine for testing positive for COVID-19 or instructed by your healthcare provider or the Tribal Health Department to stay home and quarantine?**

If you answered yes to any of the questions, you cannot enter the facility/establishment and should contact your primary healthcare provider to obtain further instructions.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the health screening questions to protect our Community.