



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 001-20

DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO NATION, CLOSING THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND SUPPORTING THE CLOSURE OF ALL SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
MARCH 13, 2020**

WHEREAS:

1. The President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (A);
2. The President shall have the enumerated power of issuing an executive order for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);
3. With the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, the Emergency Management Commission shall have the power to declare a state of emergency affecting the Navajo Nation and to obtain, coordinate and oversee assistance, whether in the form of goods, services, equipment, motor vehicles, or personnel, from all Divisions, Departments and Enterprises of the Navajo Nation for use in addressing the requirements of the People in any declared emergency. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1)(3);
4. The Emergency Management Commission declared an emergency due to the confirmation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1), *See* Emergency Management Commission resolution CEM 20-03-11;
5. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(14).

THEREFORE:

I, Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation and I, Myron Lizer, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in us, hereby issue the following order:

1. With the support of the Emergency Management Commission, CEM-20-03-11, a public health state of emergency is declared affecting the Navajo Nation citizens and residents due to confirmation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in every state surrounding the Navajo Nation, *see* White House Proclamation, NM Governor Lujan Grisham statement, Utah Governor Herbert Executive Order, Arizona Governor Ducey Executive Order and Declaration of Emergency, as such:
 - a. The Navajo Department of Health Command Operations Center shall be staffed throughout the emergency condition under the direction of the Director, Dr. Jill Jim, Navajo Department of Health; and,
 - b. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management Emergency Operation Center shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center; and,
 - c. All Navajo Nation Branches, Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, and Enterprises shall comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies coming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
2. The Navajo Nation has issued travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus which restricted or canceled all off-reservation travel and directed all Navajo Nation employees to return from current off-reservation travel; however, the action of surrounding States by restricting large gatherings and closure of government offices has heightened the concern of the spread of the COVID-19, as such:
 - a. All Navajo Nation government offices shall close to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus beginning March 16 to April 3, 2020 and only essential personnel as determined by the Division Director shall report to their respective duty stations – including Navajo Public Safety, Navajo Fire Department, Navajo Emergency Medical Services, Department of Emergency Management, Navajo Division of Finance, Navajo Division of Social Services, and those determined by the Branch Chiefs; and,
 - b. All non-essential Navajo Nation government employees, including non-certified Chapter employees, affected by this Executive Order shall be granted Administrative Leave for the duration of the closure and are expected to refrain from events, gatherings, or other areas where they may contract the COVID-19 virus; and,
 - c. The closure of Navajo Nation government offices may be extended beyond April 3, 2020 on the recommendation of the Navajo Department of Health Command Operations Center and the Navajo Department of Emergency Management Operation Center.

3. The Navajo Nation Board of Education declared an emergency affecting all schools on the Navajo Nation due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and recommended, among other measures, the closure of all schools and educational facilities on the Navajo Nation to protect our children, their parents, and care givers, NNBEMA-608-2020, as such:
- a. Public Law 100-297 grant schools, Public Law 93-638 contract schools, and Bureau of Education operated schools shall be closed from March 16 to April 3, 2020; and,
 - b. Public schools, including grant schools, private schools, higher education institutions, early childhood programs, including CCDF, Head Start, FACE programs, and all after school programs located on the Navajo Nation shall be closed from March 16 to April 3, 2020; and,
 - c. Off reservation residential halls and dormitories for Navajo students operating under the authority of the Navajo Nation will follow the process and procedure for this host school district; and,
 - d. The Navajo Board of Education may recommend an extension of the closing of the schools and educational facilities beyond April 3, 2020.

The Divisions, Departments and Enterprises are responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with this order.

The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the People.

EXECUTED this 13th day of March 2020


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice-President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST:


Doreen N. McPaul, *Attorney General*