PUBLIC SAFETY ORDER NO. 1

March 23, 2020

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 13, 2020 pursuant to their authority in T-10-61 and T-064-20; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control has confirmed the continued increase in the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 infections in the United States, many of which were identified in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington will issue a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order for all Washington State residents effective March 23, 2020, except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the critical federal infrastructure sectors outlined at www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee, acting in accordance with T-10-61 and T-064-20, that all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments are directed to immediately “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” in your home or place of residence until such time as this order is lifted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order does not apply to designated critical tribal, federal, state, and local government employees, and anyone needed to maintain continuity of operations of the critical federal infrastructure sectors outlined at www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order does not apply to employees of grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, medical providers, take out and delivery restaurants, banks, laundromats, auto mechanics, and those supporting the agricultural industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments may still leave their home or place of residence to obtain necessary services from grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, and healthcare providers.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that failure to abide by this “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order by anyone within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments, whether Indian or non-Indian, may result in civil and/or criminal penalties enforceable in Yakama Nation Tribal Court.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Yakama Nation does not waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our Sovereign Immunity, whether expressed or implied, by virtue of this declaration of emergency for any and all administrative or legal action which may arise directly or indirectly from the same, nor does the Yakama Nation waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our rights, privileges, remedies or services guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855.

DONE AND DATED this 23rd day of March, 2020 by the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee.

Delano Saluskin, Chairman
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council

Virgil Lewis, Sr., Vice-Chairman
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council

Athena Sanchez-Yallup, Secretary
Executive Committee
Yakama Nation Tribal Council
For immediate release:  

March 23, 2020

YAKAMA NATION ISSUES “STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY” ORDER

YAKAMA NATION AGENCY, YAKAMA RESERVATION – Today, the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee issued a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order for all residents of the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments due to the continued spread of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order was issued pursuant to the Yakama Nation’s March 13, 2020 declaration of emergency.

“Now is the time for dramatic action to protect our communities from this coronavirus. All residents must stay in their homes until further notice, unless you need essential items like food, gas, or medical services,” said Yakama Nation Tribal Council Chairman Delano Saluskin. “This order carries the weight of Yakama law, and must be followed by all Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotment residents, regardless of whether you are Indian or non-Indian.”

The Yakama Nation’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order only allows residents to leave their homes for necessities, or if they are critical employees for a tribal, federal, state, or local government, or for an exempted industry. This order will be enforced by Yakama Nation Police, and violators may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. The Yakama Nation Coronavirus Response Team continues to work with our federal, state, and local partners to track and contain the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19. For general information, please call the Yakama Nation’s Coronavirus COVID-19 Hotline at (509) 865-7272 for a prerecorded message with updates on the Yakama Nation’s response. This announcement will be updated as the situation changes.

For additional information or comment, please contact Yakama Nation Executive Secretary Athena Sanchez-Yallup at (509) 865-5121.