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Hopi Tribe voices support for the Navajo Nation's 57-hour curfew

Beginning Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m. MST and ending on Monday, April 13 at 4 a.m. MST, the Navajo Nation will be implementing a 57-hour lockdown meant to restrict the movement of Navajo citizens throughout the Easter weekend in an effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

As the number of COVID-19 cases on the Navajo Nation continues to rise, with more than 488 cases, and at least 20 deaths as of the publication of this article, the Navajo Nation is working around the clock ensure the safety of its residents.

The latest public health emergency order by the Navajo Department of Health, issued on April 5 states that individuals failing to comply will result in a citation and fine. However, the order makes an exception for essential employees.

As the implementation of a reservation wide curfew raises questions for the Hopi Tribe and its members whose lands are surrounded by the Navajo Nation, authorities on April 8, 2020, assured the Hopi Tribal leadership that Hopi Tribal members would not be cited or fined provided they show proof of their Hopi Tribal Membership or of their residency on the Hopi Reservation.

Following this consultation, the Hopi tribal leadership voiced their support for the Navajo Nation's 57-Hour curfew asking members of the Hopi Tribe, especially those who live or work within the borders of the Navajo Nation, to respect the Navajo Nation's efforts to combat the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus and comply with this Public Health Emergency Order.

"Although this curfew does not apply to Hopi essential employees, medical providers and first responders, provided they show their work badges or a letter from their employer indicating their status as an essential employee, operations should be limited during this 57-hour curfew to greatest extent possible." said Hopi Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma "Especially in light of the fact that the Hopi Tribe itself has a Stay-at-home order in place and residents are asked to limit their outings to essential activities only."

“I am grateful and encouraged by the number of Hopi people who have complied with the Stay-at-Home executive order to date, but as the nature of this virus is indiscriminate and it’s spread shows little respect for Tribal and National Borders, the Hopi and Navajo people’s efforts to contain this disease must be comprehensive and united,” added Hopi Vice-Chairman Clark W. Tenakhongva. “If we are to overcome this threat, the desire to work together in solidarity must become even more steadfast than the virus itself and the Hopi values of cooperation and resilience which saw us through long ago must be practiced now more than ever.”