



MARCH 19, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Native Village of Kotzebue (NVOK) is taking precautions to keep staff and tribal members safe and healthy. The following measures are being taken effective today through **April 15, 2020**.

The Tribal Office will be closed to the public. All services will be provided electronically when possible. Tribal members are asked to call **442-3467** for further assistance.

- Iglut Senior Apartment will be limiting access to the building to **residents only**. Common areas will be used minimally, and social distancing (staying 6 feet away from others) will be implemented to ensure limited exposure to residents.
- The Elders Council Meetings will be postponed. Meetings that are necessary will be held via teleconference.
- Council Meetings will be held via teleconference.
- All NVOK sponsored, business travel will be cancelled.
- Nikaitchuat Tribal School will follow the public-school closure until May 1, 2020.
- The 2020 NVOK Annual Meeting will be postponed until further notice.
- We have communicated to local carriers and Alaska Airlines discouraging any further in-region passenger travel.

The Native Village of Kotzebue is requesting that all tribal members take the following precautions:

- Social distancing by staying 6 feet apart from others.
- Proper hygiene, including but not limited to, thoroughly washing your hands, disinfecting your homes and teaching your family members to do the same.
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more people to limit exposure to COVID-19.
- Check on your Elders and neighbors by phone to see if there is anything they need.
- Do not travel if it is not medically necessary.
- Parents should minimize play dates and advise older children to hang out in a small group and to meet up outside rather than inside. It's easier to keep and maintain space between others in outdoor settings.
- Reduce or restrict visitors in your home and do not visit others to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Let us all help each other, especially with non-contact support such as shoveling and other needs, to make it through this trying time.

The Native Village of Kotzebue encourages tribal members to get creative during this time. Social distancing and self-quarantining are not easy or comfortable tasks. With today's technology, we can facetime with family members, go out into the country for hunting/fishing, take walks in the community while being mindful of your distance from others and taking advantage of the many free streaming platforms to exercise, read, learn and share during this unprecedented time.

Please also remember to refer to facts from the CDC, state and local governments about the pandemic. Credible sources are important to ensure the information you have is accurate and up to date.

More than ever, it will be our Inupiat Ilitqusiak Values and traditions that will help our people continue to strive to meet the challenges ahead. Please be **SAFE**-- let's prepare and prevent...

Quyanna,

Gia Hanna

Tribal Council Chairperson

Puyuk Joule

Executive Director