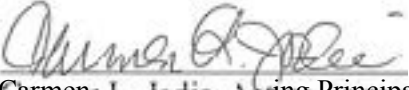


Lukachukai Community Board of Education, Inc.
"Commitment to Children, Commitment to Progress"

Navajo Route 13
P. O. Box 230
Lukachukai, Arizona 86507
Phone: (928) 787-4405/4406 Fax: (928) 787-4419

MEMORANDUM

FROM: 
Carmen L. Jodie, Acting Principal

DATE: March 16, 2020

RE: School Closure: March 16, 2020 to April 03, 2020; due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Lukachukai Community School will keep updated with the Navajo Nation, Arizona Dept, of Education and Arizona Superintendent in regards to safety measures and school closures as it pertains to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The school will be closed during the weeks of March 16, 2020 to April 03, 2020. This decision was made due to the current pandemic outbreak of the COVID-19 in the United States; with confirmed cases in the Navajo Nation and surrounding states of AZ, NM, UT, & CO. Nothing is more important than the health of our students and staff; and this action will help slow the spread of the virus.

At this time, essential staff have been identified and these staff will strive to ensure:

- 1) School administrators make every effort to provide continued education learning opportunities through online resources or materials that can be sent home.
 - a) LCS is presently working on updating the school website with links that will support on-going learning at home.
- 2) School administrators develop a plan to continue breakfast and lunch services for Arizona students
 - a) Breakfast and Lunch will be provided to students younger than 18 yrs. old (student must be present to receive meals), at the following areas:
 - i) LCS Cafeteria
 - ii) Round Rock Chapter House
 - iii) Tsaille/Wheatfields Chapter House
 - iv) Tsaille Store
 - v) Should any changes to the delivery method occur; it will be updated on the school website
- 3) When school resumes, school administrators develop and implement precautions to ensure schools are a safe learning environment, including social distancing measures, regular intervals for administrators to wash and sanitize their hands, and guidance on how to properly and frequently sanitize election equipment and common surfaces.

At this time, off-reservation travel restrictions are in effect. All student field trips and activities requiring large gatherings have been cancelled for the rest of the school year. In addition, please understand that during school closure, no visitors are allowed on school campus.

To be informed or kept up to date; we highly encourage parents/guardians to subscribe to the REMIND App. Please see attachment for further instructions.

Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala also directed the Parks and Recreation Department to immediately close all Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Areas until further notice due to growing concerns for the health of the general public.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also issued a letter to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, urging their board and management to close gaming facilities on the Navajo Nation to further prevent the potential spread of the virus. They also encourage all Navajo Nation enterprises to consider similar measures to prioritize the health and well-being of the public.

"We urge the Navajo public to stay home and refrain from large public events and use their best discretion to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Please continue to pray for the Nation and all people as we persevere through this. We are resilient and we will overcome this health emergency," added President Nez.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will hold its third radio forum on Thursday, March 12th beginning at 6:00 p.m. on KTNN 660AM and 101.5FM to provide information and receive questions. The Navajo Nation Department of Health is offering to provide presentations to communities and other groups. Please send requests by email to coronavirus.info@nndoh.org or visit their website for additional information: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue to coordinate with the county, state, and federal officials to monitor the evolving impacts of the coronavirus and continue to encourage the public to take precautions.

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For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2020

Nez-Lizer announce temporary reduction in non-essential government services, closure of schools, and public parks to prevent spread of COVID-19

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - On Friday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer announced more proactive measures to prevent the potential spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Navajo Nation by temporarily reducing the number of on-duty Executive Branch employees for the next three weeks, which does not include public safety personnel, firefighters, EMS personnel, Department of Emergency Management, Division of Finance, Division of Social Services, and others that provide essential direct services.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer issued an executive order on Friday, to notify Executive Branch employees. On Wednesday, a declaration of a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation was issued in response to the growing spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, also known as "Diko Ntsaaigii-Nahast'eits'aadah" in the Navajo language. On Friday, the White House also declared a National Emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease outbreak.

"The health and well-being of our Navajo people is the top priority. There are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Navajo Nation, however under the careful advisement of health experts, emergency preparedness personnel, and other experts the Navajo Nation COVID- 19 Preparedness Team continues to move forward with preventive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the Navajo people," said President Nez.

Based on a resolution of the Navajo Nation Board of Education passed on Friday, grant schools, contract schools, and BIE schools will also close for three weeks. All FACE Programs, Early Childhood Programs, Child Care Development Fund Programs, and Navajo Head Start Programs are also included in the three-week closure.

"We are not intending to create panic, but we want everyone to be prepared. We're staying on top of the situation and we are constantly monitoring the spread of the virus. To our Navajo people, we ask them to make good decisions and to take good care of themselves and their loved ones," stated Vice President Lizer.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also met with Division Directors and directed each division to identify essential employees for direct services and also to finalize contingency

Control (“CDC”) and World Health Organization (“WHO”) and other public health organizations located within the United States and regionally.

5. At the moment, there are no confirmed or verified COVID-19 cases on the Navajo Nation and area public health services are closely monitoring the situation. The Navajo Nation, in collaboration with various entities such as the U.S. Public Health Service Area Offices (Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix), CDC, state departments of health, Navajo Nation 638 tribal health organizations, and other multiagency groups have organized an incident command approach to mitigate COVID-19 transmission on the Navajo Nation.
6. On March 12, 2020, the New Mexico Public Education Department directed the closure of all New Mexico public and charter schools for three (3) weeks, effective March 16, 2020. On March 10, 2020, the Arizona Department of Education left it up to local school districts and governing boards on whether or not they should close schools. The Utah State Board of Education also has not ordered a state-wide closure of schools and left it up to the Utah Department of Health and local health departments who are empowered to close schools when necessary to protect public health. School districts are recommended to act in accordance with guidance from their corresponding local health departments in making the final decision as to whether conditions require the closure of schools.
7. Some Navajo Nation tribally controlled grant schools have decided to close their schools until further COVID-19 guidance and updates are provided. At the moment, BIE-operated schools have not closed any schools.
8. There are also five (5) Navajo Nation border-town residential halls/dormitories (Winslow Residential Hall, Kinteel Residential Campus, Kinlani Bordertown Dormitory, T’iisyaakin Residential Hall, Richfield Residential Hall) that host students attending public schools in their respective areas.
9. There are several higher education institutions operating on the Navajo Nation and serve substantial numbers of Navajo students. There are several private schools located on the Navajo Nation serving Navajo students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby declares an emergency and recommends the closure of all Public Law 100-297 grant schools, Public Law 93-638 contract schools, Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools, public schools (including charter schools) located on the Navajo Nation, private schools, higher education institutions operating on the Navajo Nation, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all after-school programs located on the Navajo Nation for three (3) weeks, effective March 16, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF DINE EDUCATION
THE NAVAJO NATION
P.O. Box 670 ■ Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Jonathan

Myron Lizer
Vice-

NNBEMA-608-2020

**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Relating to Education; Declaration of an Emergency and Recommending the Closure of All Public Law 100-297 Grant Schools, Public Law 93-638 Contract Schools, Bureau of Indian Education- Operated Schools, Higher Education Institutions Operating on the Navajo Nation, All Public Schools (Including Charter Schools) Operating on the Navajo Nation, All Private Schools, All FACE Programs, Early Childhood Programs, Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Programs, and Navajo Head Start Programs on the Navajo Nation for Three (3) Weeks; Tribally Controlled Residential Halls/Dormitories Shall Follow any Closure Procedures of Their Host School District.

WHEREAS:

1. The Department of Dine Education (hereinafter the “Department”) is the administrative agency within the Navajo Nation with responsibility and authority for implementing and enforcing the educational laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 1801 (B); 10 N.N.C. § 107 (A). The Department is under the immediate direction of the Board. 10 N.N.C. § 107 (B).
2. The Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the “Board”) is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purposes of overseeing the operation of all schools serving the Navajo Nation. 10 N.N.C. § 106 (A). The Board carries out its duties and responsibilities through the Department of Dine Education. 10 N.N.C. § 106 (G)(3). In addition, “the Board [has the] general power to monitor the activities of all Bureau of Indian Affairs funded schools and local community school boards serving the Navajo Nation...” 10 N.N.C. § 106 (G)(1).
3. The Navajo Nation has substantial authority and broad jurisdiction to regulate all matters within its territorial boundaries pursuant to its inherent sovereignty and Treaty of 1868. This authority and jurisdiction include the ability to oversee and regulate matters regarding state public schools, Public Law 100-297 grant, Public Law 93-638 contract, Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools, high education institutions, and all FACE programs, early childhood education programs, and Navajo Head Start programs located on the Navajo Nation.
4. The Coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) is a global pandemic infecting substantial numbers of people, and has spread exponentially and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease

NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Priscilla B. Manuelito, President ■ Spencer W. Willie, Vice President ■ Dr. Victoria Yazzie, Secretary
Member: Sharon A. Toadecheenie ■ Marlene Burbank ■ Dr. Henry Fowler ■ Andrea K. Thomas
Freda Nells ■ Joan A. Gray ■ Emerson John ■ Dr. Pauletta White
Maggie Benally, Acting Superintendent of Schools*

2. The Navajo Nation Board of Education further directs that off-residential halls/dormitories operating under the authority and jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation to follow to any closure processes/procedures of their host school district. If the host school district closes their schools, the residential hall/dormitory shall also close as well.
3. The Navajo Nation Board of Education further directs that all higher education institutions operating on the Navajo Nation to use web-based technology, video conferencing, or alternative means of delivering instruction.
4. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby recommends and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any actions deemed necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this resolution and directive.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Board of Education of the Navajo Nation at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Arizona (Navajo Nation) at which a quorum was present, motion by Dr. Pauletta White and seconded by Andrea K. Thomas and that the same was passed by a vote of 7 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained, this 13th day of March 2020.



/ Priscilla B. Manuelito, President
Navajo Nation Board of Education

For our dedicated school employees, we're working together to make sure you don't see any disruption to your pay. We'll also be consulting with our district and legislative partners to determine the extent of any potential makeup days.

Many parents, teachers, and administrators may have questions about statewide testing. We're currently engaging with our federal partners in the event that we need to secure a waiver.

The Department of Education will provide additional guidance to schools that will be posted to azed.gov. For the latest information about COVID-19, please visit azhealth.gov. This website is updated daily with new information.

We will continue to remain in close contact with state and public health officials to provide the most up-to-date information and ensure that the State of Arizona is doing everything we can to keep every member of our community healthy and safe.

We are asking schools to please adhere to the following measures during this period of closure:

- School administrators should make every effort to provide continued education learning opportunities through online resources or materials that can be sent home.
- School administrators should develop a plan to continue breakfast and lunch services for Arizona students.
- As demand rises on healthcare professionals and first responders, schools should expand child care programs currently available to ensure minimal disruption to these critical jobs as a result of the school closure.
- When school resumes, school administrators should develop and implement precautions to ensure schools are a safe learning environment, including social distancing measures, regular intervals for administrators to wash and sanitize their hands, and guidance on how to properly and frequently sanitize equipment and common surfaces.

Sincerely,

Governor Doug Ducey and Superintendent Kathy Hoffman

Dear Arizona families, educators, school leaders, and education community members,

In our roles as Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction, we stand united in working with you to keep Arizona's kids, families, and school communities safe and healthy.

Over the past few weeks and in coordination with public health officials, we have been in close communication with school administrators to provide guidance and be a resource as it relates to the recent outbreak of COVID-19. The health and safety of all our students is our top priority, and we've worked hard to keep our school doors open — these are important assets in people's lives and many families rely on them for nutrition and access to health care.

Both of our staffs have been working together in partnership through the weekend, and we've been in touch with educational leaders on the frontlines. Currently, staffing and potential absences are a concern in many districts. Many schools and school districts have announced closures.

Today, we are jointly announcing the closure of all schools from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020. We will continue to work together and assess this situation on a 24/7 basis.

It's important for families and parents to know that while this will address operational issues, doing this will not stop the spread of COVID-19.

The safest place for children during this time is at home. They should not be cared for by elderly adults or those with underlying health conditions, including grandparents and other family members.

Additionally, we are committed to working together to minimize the impact of these closures. To that end, we are assembling resources and forming community partnerships that will reduce the impact of these closures on families, teachers, and school communities.

Efforts are underway to ensure that any child has access to meals while schools are closed. We have also worked with USDA to allow schools to begin summer food service operations and provide boxed meals as needed. Your local school will have more information about how and where to access meals.

We understand many parents have questions about childcare options. It is the recommendation of public health officials that kids who are not at school remain at home to the greatest extent possible. For families for whom that's not an option, we are coordinating with partners in the non-profit, faith-based and education communities to make available childcare options to families who need it.

^remind

Sign up for important updates from Les registrar.

Get information for Lukachukai Community School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for Lukachukai Community School:

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/lukach

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

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