

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Reggie Wassana
Governor

Gilbert Miles
Lieutenant Governor



EXECUTIVE BRANCH EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-08 ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

WHEREAS as of October 30, 2020, there has been 121,495 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the State of Oklahoma, an increase of 33,126 over the past month, and 8,944,934 cases in the United States. To date, there have been 1,326 deaths in Oklahoma and 228,656 deaths in the United States due to COVID-19. The World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as “high” both globally and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-01 declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes continues to lose several tribal members, particularly elders, to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS every single county in Oklahoma as well as all of the counties in the Cheyenne and Arapaho service area have active cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS as COVID-19’s impact continues to evolve, it is important to take measures to protect Cheyenne and Arapaho members against this threat; and

WHEREAS data has shown that the number of cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in Cheyenne and Arapaho territory at an exponential rate and our schools and tribal children continue to be impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 for at least the majority of the 2020-2021 school year, action must be taken to ensure the continuing education of Cheyenne and Arapaho children and the Tribes fully support all precautionary measures that schools are providing to ensure our children’s safety, including our Cheyenne and Arapaho Headstart and Daycare Programs; and

WHEREAS the increased case numbers and hospitalizations also necessitate the need for an increased focus on precautionary measures by both businesses and individuals; and

WHEREAS the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes COVID-19 Task Force that is made up of members of the Tribes Health Board, Clinton Service Unit, and the Tribes Department of Health continues to help the Tribes stay on track with protecting our tribal members and keeping up with contact tracing; and

WHEREAS after consultation with the COVID-19 Task Force, Legislators and employees within my administration, it is necessary to extend the closure of our tribal offices to the general public, with the exception of limited essential employees, in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS in taking such critical measures to protect public health there will be direct economic consequences for tribal programs and businesses across Cheyenne and Arapaho Territory that provide employment for many tribal members, including our casinos and restaurants; and

WHEREAS, tribal governmental departments and entities across the Tribes are working tirelessly to support the COVID-19 response effort by providing mission critical support to protect tribal members; and

WHEREAS, a key resource that is needed during this state of emergency is having enough essential personnel to cope with the sudden increased workload demands for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, some tribal governmental employees may be temporarily unable to report to work due to possible COVID-19 exposure or quarantines related to COVID-19, which might impact essential governmental functions; and

WHEREAS, on a case by case basis, furloughed employees may be requested to return to work and serve in such positions that may be better utilized in support of the response effort; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled, and that tribal members continue to be able obtain tribal services during this state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, REGGIE WASSANA, Governor of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, in accordance with the authority invested in me, do hereby issue the following order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

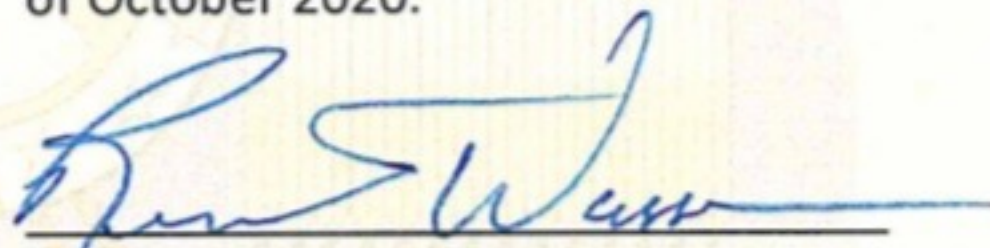
1. It is hereby declared that an emergency caused by the threat of COVID-19 still exists to the Cheyenne and Arapaho members and to the public's health and safety.

2. All previous executive orders remain in effect with the exception of essential personnel changes and work hours made in this executive order.
3. It is necessary at this time to utilize additional essential employees to ensure that tribal members are able to obtain services during this state of emergency.
4. Effective Wednesday, November 4, 2020, all selected essential employees must report to their assigned workplace Monday through Friday from 9am – 4pm.
5. Only two hours of Paid Time Off (PTO) per day will be granted to employees. If scheduled to be at work and an employee does not work from 9am – 4pm, the employee will use his/her sick or vacation time to make up his/her hours.
6. Furloughed employees may be called back to work on a case by case basis.
7. The Executive Director of Health, Charlene Wassana, will make all of the decisions on who is eligible for PTO regarding employees affected by COVID-19.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as thereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of Records and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, its departments, programs, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto signed this Order on this 30th day
of October 2020.



Reggie Wassana, Governor
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes