



Navajo Tourism Department **COVID-19 NOTICE**

March 12, 2020

The coronavirus (COVID-19) situation is growing around the United States. This notification is to inform tourists, business owners, and Navajo Nation residents of the potential impact on the Navajo Tourism industry. We also encourage you to share with us the impact your Navajo destination or company may be experiencing so we can update those in the tourism industry.

Navajo Tourism Industry Updates

As of now, all federal parks are open, but Navajo Tribal Parks will be closed immediately and reopened at the direction of Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. The following tribal parks will be closed:

- Four Corners Tribal Park, TeecNosPos, Arizona
- Lake Powell (Antelope Canyon) Tribal Park, Page, Arizona
- Little Colorado River, Cameron, Arizona
- Monument Tribal Park, Monument Valley, Arizona
- Tseyi Heritage Center, Canyon de Chelly, Arizona
- Window Rock Tribal Park/Navajo Veterans Memorial

These parks are not under management from our department, and we will send out any updates we receive. Additionally, the Arizona Office of Tourism does not want inaccurate perceptions of the outbreak to prevent travel to Arizona, as we seek to promote facts over fear. Currently, there appear to be no confirmed cases on the Navajo Nation. These are the current confirmed cases in the associated states:

- Arizona: 9
- New Mexico: 4
- Utah: 4
- Colorado: 33

The number of U.S. cases of the new coronavirus surged past 1,300, the impacts of the outbreak became even more significant. We encourage anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus to

restrain from travel to the Navajo Nation and to wash hands continually, while taking measures to strengthen the immune system. **CLICK BELOW TO LEARN MORE:**

- [Coronavirus symptoms \(World Health Organization\)](#)
- [Travel Advisories \(Center for Disease Control\)](#)
- [Coronavirus updates \(Center for Disease Control\)](#)

The Latest Federal/Congressional Updates

President Donald Trump late Wednesday announced a ban on all foreign travel to the United States from most of Europe for the next 30 days. Excluded are American citizens and those traveling from the United Kingdom.

On Monday, at a White House press conference, Vice President Pence, who has been appointed to lead the White House Coronavirus Task Force, emphasized that the risk to the American public remains low and that there is no recommendation for any limitations on travel within the U.S. CDC Director Robert Redfield reiterated this, saying that Americans should "go about and live their normal lives" during this time.

U.S. officials have restricted travel FROM certain countries with pronounced coronavirus outbreaks and are screening arrivals to the U.S. who may have traveled in affected areas in the last 14 days. The entry of foreign nationals from China and Iran has been suspended at this time.

Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President

Response to the coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President has issued a travel advisory for all Navajo Nation Executive Branch employees and continues to caution members of the Navajo Nation in response to the growing concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 virus in several states and countries around the world. As of Wednesday, March 11, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus on the Navajo Nation.

On February 27, 2020, to address the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Nez-Lizer Administration established the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team to monitor, plan, prepare, and coordinate precautionary efforts. The Team includes the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, Navajo Nation

Department of Emergency Management, Department of Diné Education, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, U.S. Indian Health Service, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education. "We advise all of our employees and Navajo citizens to limit their travel to other states and internationally for the time being. Our administration is taking proactive measures to continue raising public awareness and to plan and prepare for the potential spread of COVID-19 virus in our region. The provisions outlined in the travel advisory are intended to raise awareness, to educate our Navajo people, and not to create unnecessary hysteria," said President Nez.

On the home front, in a memorandum addressed to Navajo Nation Executive Branch employees, President Nez and Vice President Lizer direct all Divisions, Departments, and Programs under the Executive Branch to limit work-related travel due to the growing concerns over the COVID-19 virus. "We implore all Division Directors to use their best discretion to limit unnecessary travel for Navajo Nation employees. Division Directors will determine whether travel requests for their employees are "essential travel" on a case-by-case basis to reduce risks. All Division Directors are required to obtain approval from the Office of the President and Vice President for their work-related travel requests," the memorandum states.

In line with the national guidelines, President Nez and Vice President Lizer also recommend the following for Navajo Nation Employees:

- Attending meetings/events/training by using teleconference calls/video rather than traveling off the Navajo Nation
- Staying home or working from home if you have symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Avoiding contact with people showing illness or symptoms
- Cleaning/sanitizing your workstation/office space routinely

Health care officials also advise that if a person has shortness of breath or has difficulty breathing, to report to your local physician and/or emergency room hospital and to call ahead to allow the facility to prepare for your arrival. "It is incumbent upon us, as individuals, to take precautionary measures including washing your hands frequently, staying home when sick, avoiding contact with those who are sick, and limiting travel to reduce the spread of germs and decrease exposure risk," stated President Nez.