

ATTACHMENT 7

September 28, 2020 email from the Oglala Sioux Tribe to EPA-BLM

From: ostnrrawrd@gwtc.net
To: ["J spottedbear"](#); ["Robinson, Valois"](#); lkimball@blm.gov; ["President bearrunner"](#); wilsonrodeo@goldenwest.net; Rdzephier@hotmail.com
Cc: ["Mario Gonzalez"](#); ["Jeffrey C. Parsons"](#); ["Travis Stills"](#); ["T brings"](#); rickbell1206@gmail.com; ["Hannan LaGarry"](#); ["Lisa Cummings"](#); ["Harold"](#); ["D ross"](#); tombp@oglala.org
Subject: OST - EPA/BLM Consultation Meeting (concerns) for October 2, 2020 proposed scheduled meeting
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 3:54:36 PM
Attachments: [OST Sept 27 COVID letter.pdf](#)
[OST Sept 27 lockdown prep letter.pdf](#)

Greetings, All:

Ms. Kimball, (BLM) Ms. Robinson,(EPA) and OST Technical Team, (Dewey-Burdock - ISL Mining) wanted to let you all know about some of the issues that have come up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in the last few days that may affect the government to government consultation schedule. Unfortunately, there has been a spike in positive COVID-19 test results on the Reservation and as a result the Tribal Council's schedule, including the Oct. 2 meeting, is now in flux. I am on quarantine right now myself, for 14 Days due to being exposed to someone positive, and I need to have a negative test before I can return to work presumably October 5, 2020. I know there are other concerns from tribal members too. Attached are two documents that help explain the current situation – 1) a letter from President Bear Runner announcing the closure of the Tribal Government building and ordering employees to test and quarantine; and 2) a notice from the OST COVID-19 Response Task Force asking everyone to prepare for a possible Reservation-wide lockdown. I will update you all as I learn more. We are working to put together a proposed schedule for the technical meetings, but may first have to wait to see how the OST Government and Tribal Council responds to this threat. Please let me know if anyone has any questions or if you do not receive the attachments.

Reno L. Red Cloud Sr.
OST Water Resources Department / Administrator
1-605-867-5624 (office)

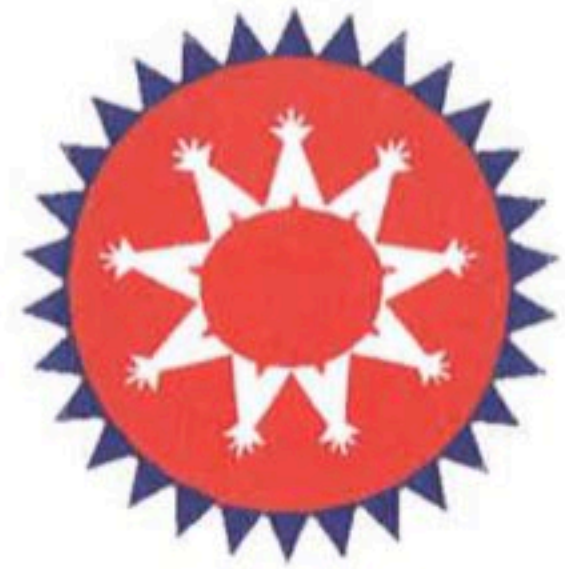


Julian Bear Runner

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Office of the President

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1(605) 867-5821 Ext. 8420 (O) / 1(605) 867-6076 (F)



To: All Tribal Headquarter's Employees

From: Julian Bear Runner, OST President

Date: September 27, 2020

Re: Closure of Tribal Building

Hau Mitakuyapi,

Due to the current number of tribal building staff that have been exposed or have tested positive for the SARS-COV-2 virus we are closing the Tribal Building for the date of Monday 9/28/2020. All employees must have a negative test before returning to work or have finished a 14 day quarantine/isolation period as validated by the CHR Program. The Critical Infrastructure Employee Protocol is in effect and there will be screening prior to returning to the workspace and upon entry of the building.

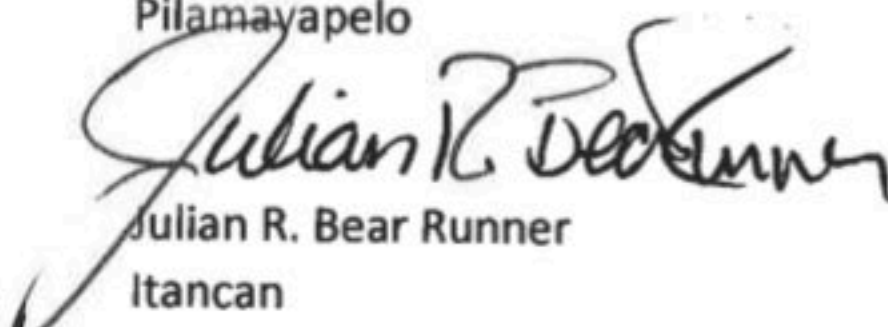
Testing will be provided outside of the Tribal Building in the back for all tribal building employees Monday 9/28/2020 from 10a to 1:30p. Those that have already been tested and have positive results do not need to test again but must isolate from others and complete the 14 day isolation period. If you test positive you must go into self-isolation. You may not return to work until you have received your test results and they are negative. If you have been exposed you will be allowed to continue to come to work in accordance with the Critical Infrastructure Employee Protocol. An alternating schedule will be implemented to decrease the number of employees at the workplace during this time.

Reminder: if you have been exposed you should remain in quarantine when not at the workplace.

Please cooperate with the Contact Tracer to help stop the spread of this virus.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (605)441-0077, or your immediate supervisor. Remember each other in prayer, and that the Oyate depend on us.

Pilamayapelo


Julian R. Bear Runner
Itancan
Oglala Sioux Tribe



Oglala Sioux Tribe

Public Service Announcement Re: Preparation for Lockdown

Anpetu Was'te' Mitakuyapi:

The Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) has been experiencing a significant increase in COVID-19 cases within the Reservation. Therefore, the (OST) COVID-19 Response Task Force is carefully watching the numbers and will be recommending a reservation-wide Lockdown if the cases continue to rise. The Task Force is currently working on a plan that will be recommended to the Law and Order Committee on Monday September 28, 2020 for review.

The OST COVID-19 Response Task Force at this time is providing Notice of a potential 7-day lockdown to the public so that everyone can be prepared. The lockdown will be reassessed at the end of the 7-day period to determine if we need to extend the lockdown time period. We would also like to remind the public that we are still under a Shelter-In-Place Ordinance and that enforcement will increase. Please stay at home and only travel for essential purposes. There should be no gatherings of 10 or more people.

The factors that have been taken into consideration for a reservation-wide lockdown include the following:

- The capacity of our Contact Tracers to keep up with tracking cases and exposures.
- The capacity of the surrounding area hospitals, presently Monument Health is in "diversion" status and Sioux Falls hospitals are at times in diversion status as well, this means IHS will have to send our relatives further away for health care.
- We also consider the capacity of our Quarantine Sites and our ability to assist individuals in quarantine.

The OST COVID-19 Response Task Force will also be recommending the reinstatement of curfew to the Law and Order Committee for review as well.

Remember if you must go out to social distance, mask up, and frequent hand-washing or use of hand sanitizer and avoid touching your face.

We must all work together to stop the spread and protect our vulnerable relatives.

Let's Warrior Up against this deadly virus,
COVID-19 Response Task Force

If you have any questions regarding Health Education, Self-quarantine, Food Distribution, or anything COVID-19 related, feel free to reach out:

Community Health Representation (CHR) Program (605) 867-5801 or (605) 441-1015 or (605) 454-4488

Emergency Management Office (605) 867-5011

Food Distribution Coordinator: (605) 454-4391

COVID Director: (605) 867-2746 or (605) 407-8405

Pine Ridge (IHS) (605) 867-5131