

# DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

NUMBER 2020-01-CR

MARCH 13, 2020

## Section 1. Authority

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY, granted by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council via Resolution #16-2019-CR, the Executive Committee of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council hereby declares that a state of emergency exists on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.

## Section 2. Event

- A. On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a worldwide pandemic of the COVID-19, a novel coronavirus that has swept across the world in the past several months. The United States of America has declared a national state of emergency effective today due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
- B. There is no known treatment or vaccine to treat or prevent COVID-19. As of this time, access of test kits is severely limited. If WHO projections hold true, the United States' medical system could become overwhelmed if the spread of the virus is not slowed. The latest data shows that it takes an estimated 2-14 days after a person becomes infected with the virus to show symptoms of illness. While the majority of people who become infected will experience only mild symptoms, there have been numerous deaths attributable to this novel virus; and
- C. The COVID-19 virus is highly contagious. It is a serious public health and safety threat that is expected to have a direct effect on the health and welfare of the residents within the exterior boundaries of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe if not contained early; and
- D. There are nine confirmed COVID-19 cases, including one death, in the State of South Dakota as of today. The State of South Dakota has declared a state of emergency in order to prevent the expansion of the virus within the state. All state schools will be closed for a week, from Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, March 20, 2020, in order to give schools an opportunity to undergo thorough cleaning and to minimize the spread of the virus.

### **Section 3. Declaration of Emergency**

The Executive Officers of the CRST Council hereby declare a state of emergency to exist on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation due to the life-threatening public health threat to the lives of the residents within the exterior boundaries of the reservation.

### **Section 4. Powers and Authorities**

- A. The Tribal Executive Officers shall manage the provision of emergency relief and preventative services by Tribal agencies and departments to all residents of the reservation, where necessary in coordination with state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations; and
- B. The use of tribal facilities, equipment, personnel, and other resources necessary to provide relief and preventative measures to all residents of the reservation are hereby authorized by the Tribal Executives; and
- C. Any administrative rules and policies that prevent, hinder, or delay the delivery of emergency services and prevention are suspended.
- D. Due to this worldwide public health threat, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is taking necessary precautions to limit exposure and reduce the risk of an outbreak, which includes:
  - a. Instituting a reservation-wide travel ban on all government employees, schools, tribal and local governments;
  - b. Restricting all reservation-based organizations from bringing individuals and groups from off-reservation locations;
  - c. Closing all schools on the reservation for at least a one-week period;
  - d. Closing non-essential tribal offices for at least a one-week period; and
  - e. Other actions deemed necessary as the situation develops and warrants.
- E. Dave Nelson, Director of CRST Environmental Protection Department, is hereby appointed as the CRST Emergency Command Center Director. Mr. Nelson will coordinate, oversee, and direct all CRST Emergency Command Center actions.

### **Section 5. Duration**

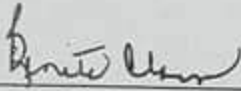
This declaration is in effect as of 1:00 PM on Friday, March 13, 2020, and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing Declaration of State of Emergency has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee, acting under the Executive Authority and in the best interest of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe this 13th day of March, 2020, in Eagle Butte, South Dakota.



Harold C. Frazier  
Chairman



Benita Clark  
Tribal Treasurer



EvAnn White Feather  
Tribal Secretary