



Sitka Tribe of Alaska to Close Offices But Essential Services will still be provided

Sitka, Alaska – March 16, 2020 – Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) is issuing this press release to notify the public of its efforts on the coronavirus and preventing the spread in our community. STA management is following CDC guidance for businesses as well as mandates from the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Alaska and most recently the City and Borough of Sitka.

STA offices will close effective noon on March 16, 2020 until further notice. Essential staff from each department have been identified and will continue to provide essential services to Tribal citizens. All facilities will be closed to the public, those needing services call 747-3207 and they will be routed to the appropriate staff during business hours.

STA has canceled all activities for Elders and Tribal citizens until further notice, including the Heritage and Cultural Tourism Conference that was planned for April 7-9, 2020. Tribal Council meetings will be closed to the public, anyone wishing to join telephonically, please call 747-3207 for call in information. The meetings will be limited to action items only. Until further notice, Committee meetings are also closed to the public. Sitka Bingo will not operate effective Wednesday, March 18 until further notice.

The public transit system will continue to operate for the time being, we have increased the cleaning of commonly touched surfaces and encourage the public to practice social distancing (6 ft from another person) while riding, if possible. The Social Services food pantry and financial assistance programs will continue to operate. Citizens should call 747-3207 before coming in.

Lisa Gassman, General Manager for STA indicated "STA is committed to ensuring the safety of our elders and all in the community of Sitka, we will adjust our operations as necessary to ensure we are adhering to CDC guidance and governmental mandates. Please check our Facebook page, webpage, Public Service Announcements and notices posted on our facilities for adjustments as they occur."

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