Yurok Tribe COVID-19 Reservation Temporary Closure Order

I. Yurok Reservation Temporary Closure

A. The Yurok Reservation, which includes all land and waters within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation, is closed to all non-residents until this Order is revoked by the Yurok Tribal Council, unless the non-resident enters the Reservation to perform an essential activity according to Section III.

B. State highways and County Roads through the Yurok Reservation shall remain open for travel consistent with state and federal law.

II. Non-Residents

A. All tourists, visitors, and other non-residents of the Yurok Reservation are directed to leave the Reservation or return to their off-Reservation residence. For purposes of this Order, a non-resident is a person who does not maintain his or her permanent home on the Reservation and is not performing an essential activity.

B. Our homeless community members are strongly encouraged to find shelter and work with Tribal or County agencies or other service providers to take steps needed to find shelter.

III. Essential activities

Tribal employees or other governments, individuals, or companies providing essential services on the Reservation are able to enter the Reservation to perform an essential activity. Such employees, individuals or companies are encouraged to carry proper identification to facilitate confirmation of their essential activity.

Essential activities consist of the following:

1. Providing medical or in-home care.
2. Providing emergency services including law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical care.
3. Providing for the continuation of essential and critical government services as determined by the Tribe or another governmental authority.
4. Providing necessary deliveries of water, firewood, propane, oil, natural gas, other fuel, electricity, telephone service, internet service, and other essential utilities.
5. Providing deliveries of United States mail and other shipping services.
6. Providing for the delivery of groceries, food, medicine, and other essential goods or services.
7. Providing for essential household and building maintenance, safety, and sanitation.
8. Providing for essential vehicle and vessel maintenance, repair, or recovery.
9. Providing public and private transportation necessary for purposes listed in this Temporary Closure Order.
10. Operating a residential, commercial, or essential infrastructure construction site (in particular affordable housing) if in compliance with physical distancing between individuals and limiting the number of persons on site to no more than ten.
11. Providing any additional essential services.

IV. Reservation Residents

A. The Yurok Tribe expects community residents to abide by all Tribal and any pertinent National, State, County orders to stay home or shelter in place and with requirements for maintaining physical distance between people, as well as disinfection procedures.

B. The Yurok Tribe has implemented a plan for distribution of essential resource to residents of the Reservation. However, the Tribe wishes to clarify that residents of the Reservation may travel outside the home and the Reservation for the following purposes when not available locally:

1. Care for elders, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable people.
2. Buying food, pet supplies and essential household products for themselves, a household member, a family member, an elder, a person with disabilities or other persons in need of immediate assistance.
3. Obtaining medical supplies or medication or to visit a health care professional for yourself, a family member, a household member, an elder, person with disabilities, any other person in need of immediate assistance, or a pet.
4. Engaging in banking or other financial transactions or services.
5. Going to work in an essential or critical business activity or service as determined by their employer or a governmental authority.
6. Engaging in outdoor activities like fishing, walking, running, hiking, hunting, as long as they maintain a safe physical distance from others.
7. Providing for funeral arrangements for a family or household member. Funerals shall be limited in attendance as much as possible and conducted with appropriate physical distancing of at least six feet between people.
8. Travelling required by law enforcement or court order or as necessary to participate in a legal proceeding.
9. Getting supplies to enable yourself to work from home.
10. Performing other necessary household functions such as using trash and laundry services.
11. Persons whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, who are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.
12. Cultural or religious activities while maintaining a safe physical distance from others.

V. Curfew
Curfew will begin immediately. All those within the Yurok Reservation should be in their homes or conducting essential activities between the hours of 10pm and 4am unless in the case of an emergency.

VI. Enforcement

Yurok Tribal Police and Tribally deputized partners shall enforce this Temporary Closure Order, directing individuals to return to their homes and document non-compliance. Yurok Tribal Police may also cite persons who violate this Order for the following tribal civil offenses as applicable: trespass, disorderly conduct, nuisance, violation of reservation closure order offense, or any other offenses as appropriate.

VII. Authority

This Temporary Closure Order is issued under Yurok Tribal Council’s authority to exclude people from the Yurok Reservation under Article IV, Section 1(g) of the Yurok Constitution.