

CURYUNG TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 2020-11

DECLARING A DISASTER AND STATE OF EMERGENCY TO THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL BAN

- WHEREAS,** The Curyung Tribal Council (herein the “Curyung Tribe”) is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe listed in the Secretary of the Interior’s annual list of federally recognized Tribes issued in accordance with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes List Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-454, *see* 85 Fed. Reg. 5462, 5466 (Jan. 30, 2020), and
- WHEREAS,** The Curyung Tribal Council is the federally recognized Tribe for the community of Dillingham, Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Article XII, Section 1 of the Curyung Constitution allows for special meetings at the Call of the (First) Chief and/or at the request of two Council members; and
- WHEREAS,** In accordance with the Constitution, the Curyung Tribal Council held a Special Emergency Meeting on March 24, 2020 to address the global COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** On March 11, 2020 a Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration signed by Alaska’s Governor Mike Dunleavy on March 11, 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** On March 13, 2020 President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; and
- WHEREAS,** The Curyung Tribe strongly recommends residents of Dillingham to hunker-down in their homes, sheltering-in-place during this pandemic by staying at home as much as possible, except to work in certain critical jobs; to buy, sell, or deliver groceries or other important goods; to receive or provide health care; and to get fresh air without contacting others. On the limited occasions when individuals leave home, they should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person outside their household whenever possible. Individuals are also encouraged to practice recommended hygiene, including regular hand washing and disinfecting their homes; and
- WHEREAS,** The CDC has recommended that all persons at higher risk of COVID-19 avoid all nonessential air travel, and the U.S. State Department has advised all U.S. Citizens to avoid all international travel; and
- WHEREAS,** On March 23, 2020 Governor Mike Dunleavy issued Health Mandate 10.1 effective 12:01am on March 25, 2020 which restricts non-essential air travel into and out of the state of Alaska and requires all people arriving in Alaska from other states or countries to immediately self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for illness. The failure to follow this order is punishable by a fine of up to \$25,000, or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both pursuant to Alaska Statute 12.55.035 and Alaska Statute 12.55.135; and
- WHEREAS,** the Curyung Tribe strongly recommends anyone returning to Dillingham from the greater Alaska area, outside of Alaska and outside of the United States to self-quarantine in their homes for a period no less than 14 days; and

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WHEREAS, Numerous doctors in Alaska have called on the Governor to ban all non-essential travel in the state; and

WHEREAS, Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 within the Alaska, the Curyung Tribal Council is increasingly concerned for the health and wellbeing of our members, tribal community of Dillingham and the Bristol Bay region; and

WHEREAS, Rural Alaska suffered terribly from the great flu pandemic of 1918-1919, but a few villages successfully avoided infection by imposing rigid quarantines and preventing outsiders from entering; and

WHEREAS, The Curyung Tribe recommends only essential services and emergency medical services will be allowed effective at 12:01am on March 26, 2020 and all non-essential travel into and out of the community of Dillingham will cease by 12:01am on March 26, 2020; This applies to travel from other villages as well as from regional centers and Anchorage, and to all forms of transportation including air travel, snow machine, and other ground and water transportation.

Essential services. Persons engaged in essential services are:

- Health professionals and other emergency responders dispatched by the state or federal governments, and patients seeking medical treatment.
- Law enforcement personnel from the state or federal government.
- Pilots and other air carrier personnel delivering freight and mail, or transporting passengers engaged in essential services.

Exceptions. The emergency disaster declaration on travel does not apply to:

- Residents of the Village or surrounding villages who temporarily left the Village prior to the enactment of this declaration provided they return home within three (3) days of enactment of this declaration.
- Residents of the Village or surrounding villages who are outside the village for medical care for themselves or a close relative or who leave the Village for medical emergencies may return to the Village when their treatment is concluded, provided that they have certification from a doctor that they have been tested and are not infected with COVID-19.

WHEREAS, The Curyung Tribe recommends that non-essential air travel not resume until May 1, 2020 or until a time that it is determined safe for Dillingham residents; and

WHEREAS, The Curyung Tribe will continue to work with the City of Dillingham, State, Federal and Tribal partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, the Curyung Tribal Council hereby declares a State of Emergency and Disaster for our tribal community of Dillingham, Alaska; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Curyung Tribal Council urges the City of Dillingham to adopt an emergency ordinance ceasing non-essential travel into and out of Dillingham effective 12:01am March 26, 2020 through May 1, 2020 and requiring anyone traveling into the community within this timeframe to self-quarantine for a period no less than 14 days.

CERTIFICATION:

This resolution was duly considered and adopted at a meeting of the Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham, Alaska on this 24th day of March, 2020, at which a quorum of Council members were in attendance via teleconference.

ATTEST:



Thomas Tilden, First Chief
Curyung Tribal Council



Date

Attest:



Tribal Chief



Date

Curyung
Tribal Council