

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

*Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor*

“Putting Our People First”

*Stephen Roe Lewis*  
Governor



*Robert Stone*  
Lieutenant Governor

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, State of Arizona Governor Douglas A. Ducey issued a declaration of a public health emergency in the State of Arizona due to the need to address, prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, other western states and the Navajo Nation has declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has officially declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, elderly persons and those with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, are at a higher risk of complications from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community must take direct measures to address the COVID-19.

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, through the authority granted to me in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community and Title 1 of the Gila River Indian Community Code, hereby order as follows:

**First**, I hereby declare a public health State of Emergency in the Gila River Indian Community until further notice regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Second**, the Community is immediately suspending all travel for Community employees for the next 30 days unless deemed necessary and approved by the Executive Office. This suspension applies to all travel that normally requires authorization under the Community's Travel Policy, adopted by Resolution GR-125-12, as amended.

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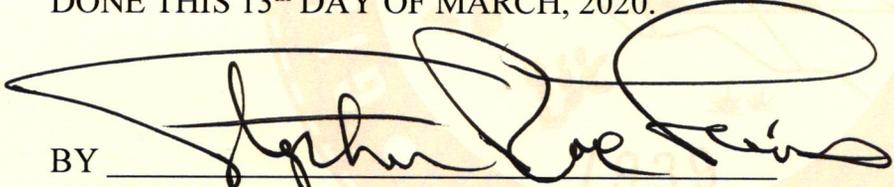
Departments and programs are directed to seek alternatives to travel, including teleconferences, online videoconferencing, livestream, or other alternatives for attending meetings, conferences or trainings. Travel requests that may still be approved are those in which the Community's interests would be seriously affected or jeopardized by non-attendance such as legal proceedings (e.g., court hearings), law enforcement matters (e.g., prisoner transports), or similar matters. Travel requests will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis.

**Third,** I am suspending all Community-sponsored gatherings of more than 100 people, excluding Community commercial entities. I am requesting that the Human Resources Department postpone the Employee Picnic currently scheduled for March 27, 2020. This is consistent with the CDC guidance regarding the avoidance of large gatherings, particularly for individuals who are at a higher risk of developing complications from COVID-19. At this time, our top priority is protecting the health of the Community, including its employees.

**Fourth,** I am directing all Community school boards and administrations to meet as soon as possible to determine what measures should be taken to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including consideration of possible short-term closures.

**Fifth,** I am also directing all Community enterprise boards and executive leadership to meet as soon as possible to determine what measures should be taken, in addition to any measures already taken or implemented, to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

DONE THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

  
BY \_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR STEPHEN ROE LEWIS