
Our priority is the safety and health of the Hualapai Tribe. The Hualapai Tribe and the Emergency with all of tribal departments and Indian Health Services are working together to prepare and respond to Coronavirus pandemic.



COVID EMERGENCY REPOSE

CORONAVIRUS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HUALAPAI BURIAL SERVICES

Updated: 01/13/2022 @9:47am

Introduction

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its variants continues to impact the lives of the Hualapai people. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to be used for the burial of any person on the Hualapai Reservation during the pandemic. It is not our intent to infringe upon Hualapai Tribal beliefs and or customs, but to protect the well-being and safety of all Tribal members.

Due to the possible spread of coronavirus, it is recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that the family not have a large family and /or community gathering such as a traditional wake.

The Tribe and Emergency Response have implemented specific burial procedures. These procedures include funeral, wake and burial services.

The information in this guidance is derived from the [CDC Recommendation for Tribal Ceremonies and Gatherings During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).

Furthermore, the CDC breaks down the risk from Lowest to Highest for Tribal ceremonies and gatherings as follows:

Lowest risk:

Tribal ceremonies or gatherings are conducted virtually (for example, by communicating online, or by video conferencing or telephone), if traditions allow.

More risk:

Small, in-person ceremonies or gatherings are held. Gatherings take place outside or in larger structures with good air flow. No food is served at ceremonies or gatherings. Tribal members remain at least 6 feet (or about two arm lengths) away from others, wear masks, and do not share or touch the same items.

Higher risk:

Medium-sized, in-person ceremonies or gatherings are adapted to allow tribal members to remain at least 6 feet apart. Tribal members are encouraged to wear masks. Food is served in pre-packaged boxes with disposable utensils.

Highest risk:

Large, in-person ceremonies or gatherings are held where it is difficult for tribal members to remain at least 6 feet apart because of the increased number of participants based on the venue size. Tribal members share or touch the same items. Food is served “potluck” or family style. Tribal members attending the ceremony or gathering come from multiple tribal communities or from outside the local geographic area.

Applicability

This SOP will be used for burials on the Hualapai Reservation.

Precautionary Measures

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the Hualapai Tribe has taken precaution of self-protection in preventing the spread of the coronavirus during funeral/Wake services. The following precautionary measures will be used to prevent the possibility of spreading the coronavirus:

- Family's Responsibility: **Assign 1 Person to be the Point of Contact** to assist with steps to ensure all precautionary steps are followed; responsibilities include:
 - Coordinate with public services of setting the burial site arrangements.
 - Point of Contact person will be responsible to make announcements at services that Precautionary Measures will be followed by all attendees of the services/memorial/traditional gathering.
 - Point of Contact person will be responsible to determine attendees follow all guidelines and precautionary measures are met and have responsibility to remove any person who does not abide by measures that are in place, this may include calling law enforcement to have any person removed from the premises for violations of measures or other unruly activity.
 - Point of Contact person may assign/delegate attendees to ensure the following items are followed;
- Ensure attendees wash/sanitize their hands each and every time for a least 20 seconds.
- Avoid close contact from another person, maintain the recommended physical distancing of 6 feet.
- Ensure all attendees are wearing facial covering/masks properly. Coving their nose and mouth.
- Attendees take precautionary measure to ensure and prevent the possibility of coming in contact with the coronavirus.
- Prevent persons from shaking hands or hugging
- Clean and disinfect where the services are held, including the following:
 - Sanitize seating where attendees were seated
 - Sanitize serving tables or tables where items are displayed
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Point of Contact Person will be responsible to remind family, friends or attendees of the following;
 - Anyone who is sick should stay home. These action will help prevent people from getting sick and help stop the spread.

The following supplies will be provided by the COVID Response Team:

- Facial Masks/Covering
- Non-contact thermometers
- Sanitizer Wipes
- Disinfectants

Contact the Recreation Department to obtain the necessary supplies at (928)-769-2652. Families will be required to complete a provisions request form.

The following are mandatory guidance based on the current color code status:

RED ALERT

- No Memorial or Traditional Wakes.
- Direct Burial Service Only
- Limited to Immediate family (maximum 12 people)
- Facial coverings/Masks are **MANDATED**.
- Attendants **MUST** physical distance.
- No food may be prepared and served.

ORANGE ALERT

- Memorial or Traditional Wakes are limited to 25 people (including singers and dancers).
- Facial coverings/Masks are **MANDATED**.
- Attendants **MUST** physical distance.
- Any person handling food **MUST** wear a facial covering/masks and gloves when handling or preparing food.
- Food should be pre-packed and available for participants **NO POTLUCK STYLE**.

BLUE ALERT

- Memorial or Traditional Wakes: Facial coverings/Masks are **MANDATED**.
- There are no limits on attendees.
- Physical distancing is encouraged.
- Any person handling food **MUST** wear a facial covering/masks and gloves when handling or preparing food.

Burial

- The Hualapai Tribe staff (public works) will support families by transporting the deceased from the mortuary to the burial site.
- Workers are to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment at all times.
- Family will place flowers and memorabilia.

VIEWING

If a community/tribal members died as a result of the Coronavirus infection; the Emergency Response discourages an open casket viewing.

If the family and the point of contact person chooses to have an open casket they must Understanding the possibilities are present you and attendees could get COVID-19 by touching the body of someone who has died of COVID-19; Open Caskets throughout the services/funeral/memorial will not be permitted with the exception of an open casket for a period of thirty minutes; the following must be followed during an open casket:

- Touching of body, including hugging or holding hands will be followed up with sanitizing their hands immediately or washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Other activities such as kissing of the body is NOT permitted.
- Limit Viewing; crowding is not permitted.
- Viewing of body at the casket must be done orderly, if lines are formed; Physical distancing will be followed
- Any person who views the body when the casket is open will sanitize immediately.
- Shaking of hands, hugging of other attendees should be avoided; if in the event any such activities are present, all participants will sanitize.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Any elderly or individuals with underlying medical conditions should NOT attend funeral services/memorial/traditional services due to the high transmission of the COVID Variants.

ISOLATION/QUARANTINE

Any person who is placed on isolation or quarantined are not permitted to attend any funeral/traditional services/memorial. Any person who violates the provisions and ordinance of isolation/quarantine will be subject to court action through law enforcement including high fines imposed by tribal court including incarceration at the tribal detention facilities.

ILLNESS

Stay home if you or attendees feel unwell, sick or had close contact with someone who is sick including close contact with a positive person.

COMPLIANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The family is responsible to follow all precautionary measures that are outlined. The families appointed point of contact person will work directly with the COVID Response Team and the Department overseeing/managing the facility used for the funeral/wake/memorial services and responsible to ensure full compliance of all attendees by following all enforced mandates and requirements.

HUALAPAI PUBLIC SERVICES COVID-19 BURIAL PROCEDURE

This procedure has been established to provide guidance to departmental staff regarding burials during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Request for burials assistance can be made calling: 1-(928)-769-2216.

Required Information

The following information is needed:

Person of Contact _____

Burial Location _____

Date _____

Time _____

Coffin Dimensions _____

To order supplies such as:

MASK

HANDSANITIZERS

DISINFECTION SOLUTION

DISINFECTING WIPES

Contact the Recreation Department to obtain the necessary supplies at 1-(928)-769-2652. Families will be required to complete a provisions request form.
