

# Tribal Pandemic Preparedness Plan

This template was prepared in collaboration by southern California Tribal members of the La Jolla, Los Coyotes, Rincon and Pechanga tribes and representatives from the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition, Warner Springs Resource Center and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

## Inter-Pandemic Alert Period

### Status

*WHO Phases 1-2                      Federal Response Stage 0*  
*No new influenza subtype in humans, may be in animals. Low Human Risk*

### Response

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Learn basic details of a pandemic threat  
Select member(s) to serve as Pandemic Emergency Contact & Educator for Tribe

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Learn basic details of a pandemic threat  
Receive blessing for agreeing to serve Tribe in this role

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Learn basic details of a pandemic threat

### Planning

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Receive basic pandemic education  
Prioritize steps for preparing members for a possible pandemic  
Tribe decides impact issues and policies for possible off reservation member returnees  
Casino entities establish separate business continuity plans  
Inventory business needs, service needs, infrastructure that may be at risk

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Gather information on pandemic facts, infection control, tribal impact issues  
Discuss need to formulate all tribal messaging on pandemic issues  
Establishes link with public health partners and information system (EMAN)  
Establishes communication network for on & off reservation members  
(phone tree, email list, web pages, reverse call systems)  
Assist with Leadership planning tasks as needed

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Decide to include a pandemic plan in your disaster preparedness plans

### Communication

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Craft policy message for off reservation members about returning during a pandemic

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Distribute pandemic facts to Tribal membership by newsletter or network  
Distribute all hazards disaster preparedness information to membership  
Distribute message for off reservation members about what to expect in a pandemic  
Establish regular "status report" time for membership: ie Fridays at 2pm

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Begin discussions with family members about a pandemic threat

## Pandemic Alert Period

### **Status**

*WHO Phase 3                      Federal Response Stages 0-1*  
*Human Infection with new influenza subtype, no or limited human to human*  
*New animal outbreak in at-risk country with possible human cases overseas*

### **Response**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Business continuity planning is priority, see planning section  
Prepare alternate sources for anticipated gaps in services  
Assign and cross train 3 alternate staff for essential service\* positions

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Consider assembling a resource manual for quick reference to facts  
    Basic Pandemic Facts                      Home Care Pandemic Influenza Patients  
    Water Purification Guidelines            Pet and Livestock Safety Guidelines  
    Infection Control practices to reduce illness spread

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Consider volunteering to train as alternate staff for essential service tasks, as needed  
All members and staff complete gathering supplies for personal disaster plans  
Arrange for back-up personal critical service providers, if necessary: i.e. medical oxygen

### **Planning**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Identify Business Continuity core priorities for reservations and membership needs  
    Define core tasks, roles and staffing needs  
Identify and contact critical service\* providers to ask about their plans to continue service  
    Include providers of power, water, fuel, communications, security, food  
    Identify possible gaps between their plans and Tribal needs  
    Consider joint pandemic planning meetings with providers, if needed  
Identify possible gaps in essential service\* provision on the reservation  
    Include staff shortages as illness is expected to reduce staff levels by 30%  
Discuss impact of suspending gatherings and events during a pandemic  
Discuss safe practices and honoring tribal customs relating to pandemic fatalities  
Review security plans and possible revisions needed for a pandemic situation  
    Consider returnee or community evacuee scenario

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Determine a "status report" schedule for when increased messaging is needed  
    i.e. MWF at 1pm the ECE will provide a current update to members

### **Communication**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Craft policy change Tribal messages for later use, if policy changes are expected

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Distribute messages describing specific social distancing examples that may be used  
Explain to membership the reason for 6+ month wait for an effective vaccine  
Distribute messaging about the 18 months of "waves" of illness to expect

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Tell family members and friends about your personal disaster plans

## Pandemic Period

### **Status**

*WHO Phases 4-5*

*Federal Response Stage 2*

*Phase 4: Small cluster, localized human to human cases, virus not adapting well*

*Phase 5: Large clusters, confirmed outbreaks, virus adapting well, high pandemic risk*

### **Response**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Monitor public health reports

Activate Business Continuity, Security plans as needed

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Monitor public health reports for factual information

Prepare to distribute all tribe messages

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Monitor reports given by Tribal ECE

Continue to gather personal supplies, include pet/livestock needs

### **Planning**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Consider planning and stockpiling for members who did not or could not prepare

Review plans to maintain security of resources, land, facilities, roads, members, guests

Security plan may need address security staff shortages as illness spreads

Security plan may include anticipated population surges (returnees, guests)

Consider if there will be an increased need to monitor physical boundaries

Prepare social distancing plans

Guidelines for cancelling social events and gatherings

Guidelines for managing funerals, school attendance, medical appts.

Prepare messages for ECE to distribute to all membership concerning:

Stockpiled resources                      Adapted security plans

Impact of staff shortages                      Population surge issues

Social distancing requests                      Plans to distribute funds, resources safely

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Assist leadership with message preparation, as listed above

Decide who may replace you and train that person, in case of personal illness

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Anticipate 18 months of pandemic response and plan for possible long periods indoors

May want to stock up on books, hobby items, games, comfort items

### **Communication**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Give prepared messages to ECE as need arises

Monitor impact of pandemic information on membership

Speculative and unchecked facts can lead to panic, giving up

Intervene if necessary using ECE messaging or another trusted method

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Distribute messages per "status report" schedule and as needed

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Make sure your pandemic facts come from a reliable source

Inform all family members of ECE messages and "status reports"

## Pandemic Period in the US

**Status**      *WHO Phase 6*                      *Federal Response Stages 3-6*  
*Widespread human outbreaks overseas, first case and spread in US (It is HERE!)*  
*Recovery and preparation for illness "waves" for approximately 18 months*

### **Response**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Monitor critical and essential service provision  
Fill essential service\* roles, as need arises  
Protect and maintain critical services\* and supply networks  
Provide back-up power, water as needed

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Maintain "status report" schedule

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Follow recommendations to prevent illness spread  
Help protect others by encouraging hygiene, social distancing, etc.

### **Planning**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Monitor effectiveness of current plans and adapt as needed  
Consider facilitating access to medical care on site, if possible  
Begin to outline recovery needs and processes\*

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Monitor for special needs members and requests  
Assist leadership with planning tasks as needed

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Conserve or ration supplies, if needed

### **Communication**

#### **Leadership Tasks:**

Craft encouragement and regular update messages for membership

#### **Emergency Contact & Educator (ECE) Tasks:**

Maintain regular "status report" time for membership: i.e. MWF at 2pm  
Offer realistic reassurance and facts to limit spread of false information  
Distribute infection control information to help limit illness spread  
Remain in contact with Public Health partners for updates  
Encourage use of social distancing, if that is recommended by Public Health  
Promote information on best practices with home care of ill loved ones

#### **All Member Tasks:**

Notify ECE and/or Tribal leadership of special needs or household fatalities  
Everyone will need to practice patience and care to get through a pandemic.  
We can get through it, if we are kind to each other and support one another.

\* Essential Services: Services that a Tribe provides to the membership and reservation  
Critical Services: Services that a Tribe and reservation receives from outside sources.

\*\* Recovery will be filled with many challenges. It is recommended that a log be kept to identify what did and didn't work for the recovery process.