



ORUTSARARMIUT NATIVE COUNCIL
P.O. Box 927 Bethel, AK *99559*
Phone: (907) 543-2608 Fax: (907) 543-2639

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Resolution # 20-03-05

- WHEREAS: Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council (ONC)¹ is the Federally-Recognized Tribe in Bethel, Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: COVID-19 is a respiration disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus (“virus”), a new strain of the corona virus that has not been previously identified in humans, and is easily transmissible from person to person; and
- WHEREAS: On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the virus a pandemic and Alaska Governor Michael Dunleavy issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency in the State of Alaska in response to the anticipated outbreak of Covid-19 in Alaska; on March 13, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared a National Emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and
- WHEREAS: As of March 16, 2020 three positive cases of Covid-19 have been identified within the State of Alaska. On March 19 twelve cases have been positively identified in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: On March 13, 2020 Governor Michael Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks, and on March 16, 2020 announced closure of all State of Alaska Residential Schools; and
- WHEREAS: The Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Councils’ elected Council members recognize their sovereign responsibility to protect the health and safety of their Tribal Members in these uncertain times by taking actions to notify the State of Alaska and the Federal Emergency Management Administration of actions taken and proposed to be taken; and
- WHEREAS: As a Federally-Recognized Tribe ONC has the authority to Declare a Major Disaster or Emergency under the provisions of Section 401 and 501 of the Robert J. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (Stafford Act) and implemented by 44 CFR 206.36 and 44 CFR 206.35; and
- WHEREAS: This Declaration of Disaster Emergency will alert Tribal Members to the seriousness of the risk, and provide direction to sources of information and other available public health resources; and

¹ Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council is the name appearing in the current list of Federally-Recognized Tribes published in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Interior. The Tribe generally goes by Orutsararmiut Native Council, or ONC.



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WHEREAS: The Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council will cooperate with the City of Bethel, Alaska in implementation of the City of Bethel Emergency Operation's Plan (latest revision including State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Emergency Operations Plan Annex J: Pandemic Influenza Plan); and

WHEREAS: ONC will continue to cooperate with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in its emergency response efforts; and

WHEREAS: In lieu of an ONC-specific Emergency Operations Plan the Tribe adopts the Emergency Operations Plan (latest version) promulgated by the City of Bethel, including the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Emergency Operations Plan Annex J: Pandemic Influenza Plan; and

WHEREAS: ONC Administration is directed to implement an Incident Command response, based on the practices of the National Incident Management System; and

WHEREAS: Upon activation of the Incident Command System in ONC, the Executive Director is designated Incident Commander and is authorized to merge ONC emergency response operations with the City of Bethel, YKHC, State of Alaska Unified Command or any other emergency response authority the Incident Commander deems appropriate

WHEREAS: ONC is capable of managing funds including State and Federal grants and contracts on behalf of its Tribal members with full accountability to funding agencies and organizations; and

WHEREAS: ONC Administration is directed to seek assistance for Emergency Response from the State of Alaska and the United States Government; and

WHEREAS: The Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council is prepared to Declare that a Public Health Disaster Emergency exists in Bethel, Alaska in order to allow the ONC Administration to seek any funding available to aid in fighting the Cornona Virus; and

WHEREAS: ONC Administration has developed in-house measures to protect staff and continue providing services to ONC Tribal Members,



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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council declares that a Public Health Disaster Emergency exists in Bethel, Alaska and authorizes the ONC Administration to notify the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center and the Federal Emergency Management Agency of this Declaration in accordance with authorities cited herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ONC Executive Director, Acting Executive Director or his or her designee as Incident Commander may obligate ONC for the conduct of emergency response to, continuity of operations during and recovery from the Covid-19 outbreak and shall seek funding including reimbursements where available for all costs associated with this Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Incident Commander shall keep the Chairman of ONC fully apprised of all activities involving ONC Emergency response to Covid-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Declaration of Emergency shall remain in effect, with all authorities, until it is rescinded by a vote of the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council and on advice of the State of Alaska, Federal Emergency Management Administration and United States Centers for Disease Control.

Voted upon by a Quorum of the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council present or telephonically on this ____ day of March, 2020 with ____Yeas, ____Nays, ____Absentions and ____Absent.

Henry Hunter, Chairman

attest:_____
Thad Tikiun, Secretary