A Message to Our Zuni People

KESHI! KO’DON DEWANAN A:DEYA’YE

The Pueblo of Zuni applied for and was blessed to receive Federal funds in May, 2020 from the US Treasury Department. The funds are Congressionally authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The purpose of these CARES Act funds is to help Tribal Governments to pay for necessary expenditures incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time, the Governor, Lt. Governor and Tribal Council would like to inform our people on what has been purchased and how the CARES Act funds have been used. We feel these items are of utmost importance and essential for our people and the Zuni community. The following have been purchased thus far:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face masks, plastic gloves, and protective gear for tribal offices and the community
- Emergency financial assistance in the amount of up to $1,000 per person for all enrolled Zuni members age 18 and over
- Mobile homes and travel trailers to house people who have the virus and need a place to self-isolate
- Home furnishings for these mobile homes and RVs
- Utility hook-ups for the mobile homes and RVs
- Establishing the COVID-19 Information Center and providing equipment to operate the Center
- Purchasing ambulances
- Purchase vans to transport COVID-19-positive community people to Gallup hospitals for medical attention or to hotels for self-quarantine or isolation purposes
- Checkpoint security and road-block services
- Road signs, canopies, and porta-potties for road-blocks and security checkpoints
- Sanitation services for homes after people recover from the COVID-19 virus
- Sanitation services for Tribal offices
- Essential items and food vouchers for Zuni Veterans
- Supplies such as hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, hand-held thermometers, plexiglass shields for desks, and other supplies for tribal office personnel
- The Gallup Independent newspaper publication costs for Zuni community notices
- Burial assistance for COVID-19 related deaths

There are many other important and essential projects that have been identified, which are still in the planning process. We will keep you posted and updated as we progress in these projects and as we work toward helping our community by bringing some relief and assistance during this traumatic time.

In the meantime, we have to continue the safety measures set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), our State Government, and our local health officials. These safety measures are: Wash your hands, stay home, wear a face mask, and continue to practice social distancing.

Elakhwa. Don k’ettsannishshi a:deya’du.

GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, AND ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL

To reach the Pueblo of Zuni COVID-19 information center, open every day from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, call:
(505) 782-2466, (303) 917-3181,
(720) 660-7786, or (720) 576-4014
Hello to all our Zuni Community people there and afar. First and foremost, I want to thank all you folks here at home base and in the urban environment for getting your 2020 CENSUS Questionnaire completed and submitted. I am part of the local Census Communications Count committee, and I am your representative. Most of you folks have heard my outreach through KSHI radio on the importance of why we need to do our share in making sure we all get counted. The Tribal Census Coalition is also keeping track of the tribal response rates to be aware of how Native Country here in New Mexico is coming along, which will assist towards moving into the Non-Response follow-up on August 11, 2020.

Having said that, Thank you and Congratulations to those of you who have done your part in getting Zuni Pueblo on its way to showing an upward increase in responses. Currently we are at a 35% cumulative response rate overall. My goal for our tribe is to reach a 100% response rate. My efforts in my duties as your local representative of the Census Communications Count committee was also highlighted during the Native America Calling radio show which aired on July 24, 2020 with interviews with select panel members.

If there are folks out there who haven’t received your census questionnaire to date, this will be looked into during the Non-Response Follow-Up Process. More information will be provided on how this challenge will be solved. In all things considered, we are the largest Pueblo tribe, and ten years ago during the Census 2010 Count, we were significantly undercounted. Being undercounted means less federal funding for programs and services that many of us use, have used, or will use to have our basic needs met.

Census-driven data, meaning the census counts from people completing their census questionnaires and sending them in, directs census-driven funding for childcare, employment programs, elderly care, education, free school meals, Head Start, SNAP program, LIHEAP program, Medicare/Medicaid, WIC, State children's health insurance programs, the Urban Indian Health program, Indian Health Service, and the list goes on.

As I keep reiterating, we are the largest Pueblo, and being your tribal leader and representative through these tribal coalitions and the Census Count Committee, I see that our needs are growing. We can support these programs by simply responding to the 2020 Census Count. We all deserve to be counted; we need to be counted. Please do your part and complete and send in your Census Questionnaire.

Elahkwa

Councilman Arden Kucate
The following information from Emergency Management and the Pueblo of Zuni was accurate as of August 2, 2020. Updates are received through the Ramah/Zuni Service Unit (IHS); test results reflect non-tribal and tribal members.

**Zuni-IHS COVID Testing Results**

The following graphs, based on data provided by the Zuni Indian Health Service, show Zuni’s overall infection trend, now appearing to plateau, since mid-April.

| Total Tests Performed by Zuni Hospital Lab 8/2: | 5,441 |
| Total Negatives to date:                     | 3,311 |
| Total Positives to date:                     | 609   |
| Total Positive Test Results for Zuni as of 8/2: | 484   |
| Total Recoveries as of 8/2:                  | 282   |

The Pueblo of Zuni and Emergency Management urge the community to shelter-in-place, use face masks, limit travel, practice social distancing, and remember that it takes just one person to infect everyone around them.

The following information includes issuance of PPEs. Additional PPEs and disinfecting supplies are also available at the Call Center. The hospital staff will urge the family not to open the body bag throughout the burial process. If the family chooses to open the bag, it increases the risk of COVI infection.

- **In the case of any death, burial assistance is available from the tribe to pay for the burial process.** This includes monetary assistance to the family of $150.00 and payment to a contractor to operate the backhoe to dig the grave and the personal pit. In the case of a C-19 burial, the process includes a backfill of the grave using the backhoe. With the backfill, it is recommended that a family member shovel a layer of sand over the body before backfilling by the backhoe.

- **Burial assistance can be requested by calling the Zuni COVID Call Center at (505) 782-2466, (303) 917-3181, (720) 660-7786, (720) 576-4014.** When calling, provide a phone number of the person that will receive the assistance and who will coordinate the burial with Utility Department Staff. The process of issuance of the monetary assistance is handled over the phone.

- **When a body is received at the hospital, the hospital has staff available to provide information on the proper handling of the body.** The information includes issuance of PPEs. Additional PPEs and disinfecting supplies are also available at the Call Center. The hospital staff will urge the family not to open the body bag throughout the burial process. If the family chooses to open the bag, it increases the risk of COVI infection.

- **At times, there are questions of IHS eligibility of decedents for transport to Zuni.** In these cases, the Governor and Tribal Council are available to assist. You can reach the Governor’s Office at 505-782-7022 or 505-879-2384.
The health, safety and well-being of both students and staff are a top priority as Navajo Technical University (NTU) and A:shiwi College Career Readiness Center (ACCRC) reopen for the Fall, 2020 semester. The University would like to have students back in the classrooms. However, with the high infection and transmission rates of COVID-19 on the reservation, the University and ACCRC are preparing to continue with online and hybrid learning. The NTU and ACCRC administrations have been preparing for the upcoming academic year with the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New Mexico Higher Education Department Reopening Campuses, New Mexico Department of Health, Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education, and the Navajo Nation and Pueblo of Zuni Executive Orders.

There will be daily symptom screening for all employees and students, including temperature testing and questions about any signs of illness and whether you have been in contact with an infected person. The University and ACCRC follow COVID-19 safe practices by having the majority of the departments work remotely, practicing 6’ distancing between individuals, wearing masks, minimizing contact, disinfecting workspaces daily, and proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. ACCRC also follows the COVID-19 safe practices established by the Pueblo of Zuni.

Students returning will be in a new environment; therefore, guidance and protocols need to be in place, as well as guidance to ensure their safety. Below are some questions and answers to help students understand NTU’s and ACCRC’s approach to COVID safety.

### Guidance for Students Returning to NTU and ACCRC for the Fall Semester

- **What to expect when I return to campus?**
  - All campuses are putting in place CDC safety measures such as smaller class sizes and distancing all tables and desks by 6 feet if you have classes on campus. Everyone will be required to wear a mask for everyone’s safety. The majority of the offices are remotely operating and are doing all they can to assist with your needs.

- **Will the Fall 2020 semester be conducted remotely or in person?**
  - The Fall semester will be online with limited Hybrid Learning environments. Those that have labs and shop hours will be conducted on campus through small groups at staggered time frames. Instructors/professors will have the schedule set up.

- **Are there plans to offer remote learning options for Fall semester to students who may be at risk?**
  - There are different options offered; the schedule may be viewed at [http://www.navajotech.edu/academics/course-schedules](http://www.navajotech.edu/academics/course-schedules) - Main campus
  - https://d864e25a-f02b-4378-bb15-6d300bf8a9fb.filesusr.com/ugd/9e732e_bf1f87d080f6452ca326893004c5077d.pdf - Zuni class schedule
  - or schedule an appointment with your advisor to determine a course schedule. The University is offering online and hybrid...
- **Will I need to come to campus if my classes are hybrid?**
  - Hybrid classes meet 50% of the time with face-to-face classroom instruction and 50% online. This depends on your course. Many classes will use different modes of delivery including Zoom.
- **What does hybrid mean?**
  - Hybrid replaces a portion of the traditional face-to-face instruction with web-based online learning.
- **If I am social distancing, how many students will be in class at the same time for the face-to-face component of the hybrid courses?**
  - Currently, the majority of the classrooms can hold only 10 or less students because of the size of the classroom after separation of seating by 6 feet.
- **I don't like remote learning. Can I take courses in person?**
  - The Fall semester is on an online and hybrid schedule. You are able to have face-to-face instruction for hybrid courses 50% of the course contact hours. Please see the schedule on our website to see which courses are hybrid.

**How do I set up a Moodle account?**
- Call Sharon Platero at 505-488-8430 to set up your email account. Once you have your email account, you will be able to set a Moodle account following the instructions.
  
- Many E-Learning resources on procedures, policies and helpful tutorials are all listed here:
  
  http://www.navajotech.edu/students/e-learning-resources

**Whom do I obtain a laptop from if I don't have financial aid to purchase one from the bookstore?**
- Zuni Site: Contact Laura Leekela at lleekela@navajotech.edu
- The University has a limited supply of laptops that students can borrow. Please contact the IT department at 505-7387-7363. Your financial aid can now be used to purchase a computer from the bookstore. If you would like this option, please notify the IT Department, so they can start ordering the laptop.

**Where do I go to get help for Financial Aid?**
- Financial Aid can be reached at the Main Campus, in Zuni, and at the Chinle Site. You can reach anyone of the following who will assist your request:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gary Segay</th>
<th>Rena Tom</th>
<th>Yolanda Begay</th>
<th>Chiple: Judy Yazzie</th>
<th>Laura Leekela</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Officer</td>
<td>Financial Aid Assistant</td>
<td>Financial Aid Assistant</td>
<td>Student Services @ ACCRC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:gsegay@navajotech.edu">gsegay@navajotech.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rtom@navajotech.edu">rtom@navajotech.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ybegay@navajotech.edu">ybegay@navajotech.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jyazzie@navajotech.edu">jyazzie@navajotech.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:leekela@navajotech.edu">leekela@navajotech.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-387-7423</td>
<td>505-387-7417</td>
<td>505-387-7442</td>
<td>928-882-3137</td>
<td>505-782-6020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What is the best way to contact my academic advisor?**
- Following is a listing of all the advisors at each site.

**Main Campus**

- Sherieta Martinez-Brown
  - First Year Experience Academic Advisor
  - Phone: 505.387.7470
  - Email: smartinez@navajotech.edu

**Chinle Site**

- Valenica Begay
  - Academic Counselor
  - 928-882-3138
  - Email: vbegay@navajotech.edu

**Zuni Site**

- Bobbie J. Shack
  - Director of Student Services
  - 505-722-6022

**Kirtland Site**

- Dr. Vangee Nez
  - Bond Wilson Instructional Site Director
  - 505-609-5020

**Teec Nos Pos Site**

- Frank Todacheeny
  - TNP Instructional Site Coordinator
  - 928-656-3600
• How can I receive IT or technical support if needed?
  o Please call the IT Department at 505-387-7491 or 505-786-4208 or send an email to: its@navajotech.edu.

• Is campus currently open?
  o The University is closed with limited access; please call the offices before attempting to visit. When on campus, please wear a mask and follow social distancing.

• What is the campus doing for infection control?
  o The University maintenance and custodial teams are cleaning and disinfecting all utilized surfaces daily.

• Under what circumstances do I need to isolate?
  o According to the CDC guidelines, you should self-isolate if you might have been exposed to COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 – or if you have a fever above 100.4 F.

• What does self-isolation mean?
  o You stay home for 14 days after your last risky contact by staying in a separate bedroom and have no close contact with anyone. You should avoid contact with others inside and outside the home.

• Where would I self-isolate if needed?
  o You should always self-quarantine at home in a separate bedroom. If you are at the dorms, you can self-isolate in your own room. All necessary needs will be provided, but please notify someone to assist your needs.

• What should I do if I feel ill?
  o Make sure you continue to use your facemask to prevent the spread. If you get sick on campus, please call the Dean of Student Services at 505-387-7362, or the Safety Official at 505-422-1645 on campus, or the Coronavirus Hotline at 1-855-600-3453, for guidance on what to do. If you are at home, please stay isolated until you are able to consult with your health care provider.

• I’ve tested positive for COVID-19, or I have symptoms that strongly suggest I’ve been infected.
  o If you tested positive or have symptoms, stay at home unless you are going to the health center, call your health care provider, distance yourself from everyone, and use your mask at all times when around others. You are to self-quarantine until you test negative.

• Am I required to 'self-report' to slow the spread of infection and keep the campus community safe? How do I do this?
  o You are recommended to self-report to stop the spread of COVID-19. Your identification will be held confidentially, but we’ll need to trace your contacts with others. Please call the Dean of Student Services at 505-387-7362, or the Safety Official at 505-422-1645 to self-disclose.

• What should I do if I’m having a hard time communicating with my academic concerns, as impacted by COVID-19, with an instructor?
  o When your instructor does not respond within 24 working hours, please call the Director of Student Services, Bobbie Shack, at 505-782-6022, or the Director of Instruction and Applied Indigenous Studies: 505-782-6010.

The State of New Mexico, ACCRC, and NTU require the use of cloth facemasks in public areas to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Those that need a facemask may request disposable masks at the front office. It is highly recommended to maintain social distancing while on campus, especially in common areas. The keys to reducing the spread of COVID-19 are:

• If you are sick, stay home from school.
• Avoid close contact with those who are already sick.
• Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or the crook of your arm.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
• Wear a mask.

We will continue to provide quality higher learning for all in a safe and supportive environment.

Zuni Solid Waste Program Offers Assistance to COVID-affected Families

The Zuni Solid Waste Program has set up a program to assist community families that have been quarantined due to testing positive with the COVID-19 virus. The transfer stations workers will assist with collecting household bagged trash only for the period of doctor-ordered quarantine. The procedure is considered a no-contact collection of household waste in order to protect essential workers.

To sign up for the household trash collection while in quarantine, ask the Zuni-HIS public health nurse to provide you with a letter, which will require you to provide the following information (no name is required): physical street address; phone contact number; verification from the hospital of the quarantine period.

The following procedure will be followed by the Solid Waste Program:

• Each Tuesday and Thursday essential workers will arrive

Assistance continues on the next page
POZ COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance FAQs

What is COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance?
The COVID-19 Emergency Financial Support Assistance Program is designed to provide one-time non-taxable economic relief to Zuni Tribal enrolled members with additional resources to maintain adequate housing, transportation, food, water, medication, medical care, utilities, and basic life necessities to help alleviate the financial hardships endured from loss of income and increased costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for the Program is being distributed from the CARES Act funding received by the Zuni Tribe.

Who is eligible to apply?
• Zuni Enrolled Tribal Member (residing on OR off the reservation), who must have been enrolled by April 1, 2020
• Enrolled tribal members over the age of 18 years or older; must have reached 18 years of age by April 1, 2020
• Has experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic

If I live out of state, can I apply?
Yes, as long as you are an enrolled tribal member

How do I apply for this service?
OPTION 1: Complete and send a PDF Fillable application by email with supporting documents to: Covid.Assistance@ashiwi.org
  • Download application at http://www.ashiwi.org or;
  • Email Covid.Assistance@ashiwi.org to request an application, or;

OPTION 2: Complete and submit the application and upload documents on-line at the following link: POZ COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance via cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop (must have a valid email address to receive confirmation that your online application has been submitted), or;

OPTION 3: Contact the POZ COVID-19 Information Center Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at (505) 782-2466 or (720) 660 - 7786 for assistance with completing the application over the phone. If you choose this option, you will be required to submit your supporting documents to the COVID-19 Information Center staff located next to Zuni Dispatch in Blackrock and sign the application curbside (please wear your facemask). Upon arrival, staff will have you sign your application and take a picture of your supporting documents. COVID-19 Information Center staff can also help you complete your application online at curbside using program tablets and WiFi access. If you choose this option, please wear your masks and use hand sanitizer before signing the tablet or paper application.

When is the deadline to apply?
November 1, 2020

What if I can't upload my documents?
You can email your census card, census enrollment verification, or CIB with state issued ID, to Covid.Assistance@ashiwi.org

What if I do not have a state issued ID or Driver’s License?
If you absolutely do not have any sort picture ID, then you will be required to participate in the phone call verification.

What if I do not have my census card or do not remember my census number?
ZEDC staff will verify your census number through an internal tribal enrollment verification form utilizing your name, social security number and date of birth. You do not need to call the census office.

Is the financial assistance check taxable?
No, the assistance is not taxable. If it was you would have been required to complete a W-9 Form. It is NOT taxable.

When will I receive my assistance check?
With the enormous amount of applications received, POZ staff are working diligently to process applications. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your check to be released. Your check will be mailed to the mailing address provided on your application. We appreciate your patience.

Can I do a mobile deposit?
If your financial institution provides mobile banking, then you can deposit your check via mobile deposit. PLEASE ensure that you indicate “MOBILE DEPOSIT” on the back of your signed check.

Please be advised that the tribal enrollment verification and payment processes may be delayed if you are missing key documents or information.

The Zuni Solid Waste Program has a drop-box in front of the Transfer Station for families needing this assistance to drop off their request without having to speak with staff. Please call the transfer station if you have question or concerns regarding your request for service. Please be safe, wear a mask, and distance from others to help protect everyone.

Governor Welcomes New Chief Judge

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome a new member of our judicial staff. Kaniatariio Gilbert has given his Oath of Office as the Chief Judge for the Zuni Tribal Court. Judge Gilbert comes to the Pueblo of Zuni with a degree from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Judge Gilbert is a Kanien’kehå:kà (Mohawk) from Kahnawà:ke Nation, Montreal, Canada.

Prior to coming to Zuni, he served as Chief Judge with the Hualapai Tribal Court, Peach Springs, Arizona.

Join me in welcoming Judge Gilbert.

Elakhwa
Governor Panteah
The following positions have been posted on www.ashiwi.org. Applicants must apply online. To view the announcements click on the job titles below. For any questions please contact the Human Resources Department at hr@ashiwi.org.

**INTAKE TECHNICIAN/FOSTER CARE WORKER**: Closing August 10 **TRIBAL RANGER I – CERTIFIED** Open Until Filled