



**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF
EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY
TO COORDINATE RESPONSE AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS TO
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), is a respiratory disease that is causing serious illness and death around the world and is easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, and many states, including North Carolina, have declared states of emergency, as have other Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, these emergency declarations are necessary to quickly manage responses to the evolving threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to also declare an emergency so the Tribal government can better protect its people; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee Code (C.C.) Chapter 166, Article II, authorizes the Principal Chief to declare a state of emergency during times of public crisis and to protect lives, safety and health and welfare of people within Cherokee trust lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, having consulted with Tribal healthcare professionals, by the authority vested in me as Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians by C.C. Chapter 166, Article II, I declare that a State of Emergency exists on EBCI trust lands due to the public health risks presented by the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. This State of Emergency is effective immediately. Initial instructions are expressed in the attached and incorporated Exhibit A. This Declaration and Exhibit A will be supplemented as circumstances warrant to best protect the public health and the welfare of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.


Richard G. Sneed, Principal Chief

3/13/2020
Date

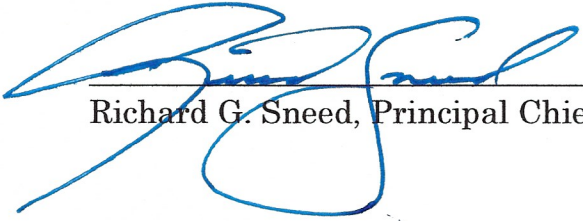
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EXHIBIT A

- (1) Cooperation Required.** All Tribal government employees, programs, divisions, boards, commissions, committees, enterprises and entities are ordered to cooperate and assist in the implementation of this Declaration and its associated instructions.
- (2) Mutual Assistance.** The Tribe's Public Health and Human Services personnel, law enforcement personnel, emergency management personnel, emergency services personnel and the Tribe's employees generally shall cooperate in implementing the Tribe's Emergency Management Plan and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements, shall provide assistance under the Plan, compacts and agreements as contemplated in those documents, and shall cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the emergency ordinances
- (3) Monitoring.** I hereby authorize the Secretary of Public Health and Human Services to monitor COVID-19 and make recommendations for Tribal employees and conducting Tribal business.
- (4) Public Health Surveillance and Control Measures.** I hereby order the Secretary of Public Health and Human Services collaborate with the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority, and local health directors, to implement public health surveillance and control measures for COVID-19 in order to control or mitigate spread of the disease. I hereby order the Secretary of Public Health and Human Services to use all authorities available under applicable law to obtain information and records necessary to prevent, control, or investigate COVID-19.
- (5) Non-Tribal Support.** I further direct the Director of Public Safety/Emergency Management to seek assistance from any and all agencies of the United States Government, the State of North Carolina, and area county and city governments as may be needed to address the emergency and seek reimbursement for costs incurred by the Tribe in responding to this emergency.
- (6) Tribal-Employee Travel.** All non-essential travel by Tribal employees is prohibited if the travel includes transportation by common carrier or attendance at a large group event.
- (7) Application of C.C. Chapter 166.** The ordinances expressed in C.C. Chapter 166, Article II, and restated here are necessary to maintain public order and public services and to protect the health and welfare of Cherokee's citizens and property during this emergency. These ordinances shall be in effect on all Eastern

Band of Cherokee Indians trust lands until this Proclamation expires or is rescinded.

(8) Publication. The Declaration of State of Emergency, Exhibit A, and subsequent instructions will be disseminated to Tribal media and communication outlets for publication promptly upon approval by the Principal Chief or his designee.



Richard G. Sneed, Principal Chief

3/13/2020
Date