



National Indian Health Board NATIONAL TRIBAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

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What is a Declaration of State of Emergency?

A declaration of a state of emergency is an order that is implemented by the President of the United States during events that require quick and ongoing coordination between government agencies, such as natural disasters, national security threats, civil unrest, and disease outbreaks. Declarations can be national in scope, or limited to a specific geographic area. The declaration allows the federal government to provide emergency services (property, safety, and public health efforts), mobilize the military, redirect federal resources, and realign trade practices, just to name a few. The US president has access to emergency powers contained in approximately 123 statutory provisions.

While there is already a national declaration in place, Tribes are able to ask for a declaration for their reservations, which can improve federal responsiveness and secure resources related to the emergency. Under the Stafford Act, Tribes are able to petition the President directly for an emergency declaration, instead of going through the state's governor. The following information must be included for a declaration of a state of emergency to take place:

- Confirmation that the Governor or Tribal Chair has taken appropriate action under State or Tribal law and directed the execution of the State or Tribal emergency plan;
- A description of the State and local or Tribal government efforts and resources utilized to alleviate the emergency;
- A description of other federal agency efforts and resources utilized in response to the emergency
- A description of the type and extent of additional federal assistance required.

When was the Declaration of State Emergency ordered in regards to the COVID 19?

President Trump issued a national declaration of a state of emergency in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020. Under the declaration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other agencies initiated response efforts to prevent further transmission of the novel coronavirus. Under the declaration, state, local, Tribal, and federal government officials have begun sharing information, coordinating the treatment of individuals who are affected, and asking the public to remain at home and limit potential exposure to prevent further transmission.

What can Tribal Government Officials do to Bring Awareness?

- As it pertains to Tribal government, the Tribal Chair makes the request to the President.
- Once the damage/impact on public sector and assistance that is needed it provided, the necessary steps take place to ensure that the Governor of Tribal Chair complies with all requirements.
- Public assistance that is available to Tribes during a declaration of emergency may include and not limited to: removal of debris, emergency measures, controlling of water facilities, the maintenance of buildings and equipment needed, the utilities, and also the parks and recreational facilities that are used by the general public.

Disclaimer:

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