

This week, the Nisqually Tribal Council approved two Resolutions, # 48 and # 49. Both of these resolutions are part of the Tribe's phased reopening plan.

On May 27th, the Tribal Council approved moving into Phase 2. We are still under our *Stay at Home* order, but some of the restrictions have been eased.

We still need to:

- Practice social distancing, staying six feet apart from people who do not live in your household.
- Only go out for essential services and limit shopping trips.
- Wear a face covering when shopping or in other situations where you are closer than six feet.
- Use good hand hygiene; washing your hands or using hand sanitizer.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your home and workplace.
- Encourage social media or teleconferencing instead of visiting face to face.

What is allowed in Phase 2 is:

- Having small gatherings of five people or less from outside your household.
- Barber shops, salons and nail salons may open.
- Pet grooming services may open.
- Guided hunting and fishing trips with social distancing enforced.
- Retail operations may operate at no more than 50% capacity.
- Restaurants – indoor seating at up to 50% capacity.
- Elective surgeries if clinically appropriate.
- Dental clinics may resume non-urgent care.
- Camping at some state and national parks.

Unfortunately, there are programs that will still remain closed during this phase.

Resolution #48 also allows us the opportunity to advance to Phase 3 when we are ready.

How do we know that we are ready?

Nisqually has zero cases of COVID-19. Thurston County has 0% of its Native population that have tested positive for COVID-19. We need to keep up the good work!

We need to go another three weeks *minimum* with little or no change in our numbers to be able to advance to Phase 3. Our clinic needs to have the capability to rapidly test a large number of people in a short period of time. The clinic is testing their capabilities and have plans in place. Our local hospitals need to have the capacity to handle a surge if things were to get out of hand. They can do that.

We are all becoming tired of staying at home. As we start to venture out, we need to be mindful of our surroundings, whether that is at a beach or at a store; wear your mask, sanitize your hands, keep your distance.

We'll pull through this together, by staying six feet apart.

Mary Szafranski, PHN
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