
Karuk Community Health Clinic

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Karuk Tribe

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For Immediate Release

May 20, 2020

As States, Counties, and Cities surrounding the Karuk Tribe's Service Area slowly start to reopen, the Karuk Tribe would like to let its membership, communities, and workforce know that they are approaching reopening, very slowly, with an abundance of caution.

The Tribal Council understands that it has been a very long two months, and recognizes that many would like to return to life as we previously knew it, but strongly encourages everyone to continue practicing personal safety measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. A large percentage of residents in our communities are more vulnerable to contracting the virus, due to underlying health conditions, and it is our obligation to take every precaution we can, to protect them.

The Karuk Tribe's Emergency Response Team has been working diligently to develop detailed protocols for a slow, and methodical reintroduction of employees to the Tribe's Offices, Clinics, and other Facilities. There will be many changes to daily routines to ensure safety. Full staffing, with public access to offices and meetings, is not yet on the horizon. Those staff and departments who are currently working remotely will continue to do so, being available by email and phone. Our clinics will continue to have limited access, requiring that you call first for triage.

The Karuk Tribe has worked diligently over the past several weeks to establish a food distribution system that will allow us to provide food to those who need help, with the goal of protecting Elders, and keeping them at home, since they have a higher risk should they come in contact with the virus. The Tribe recently lowered the age for Karuk Elders to be served through this program to 55, versus the previous 62. The Karuk Tribe's Community Health Representatives (CHRs) and Elder Workers are contacting all Karuk Elders in the service area to ensure that if they need assistance, they are included and prioritized.

If you are a Karuk Elder, and have not been contacted, or previously submitted a Food Application, you may now submit them online by clicking the [Food Application](#) link at www.karuk.us/covid19/ or by contacting your local CHR/Elder Worker. Non-Elders who have submitted Food Applications, **will** be included in the next round of food distribution, you do not need to re-apply. We apologize for the delay as we have worked to establish a system.

If you have not submitted an application, and are in need of food assistance, please visit the website above, or contact the Covid-19 Team at 1-800-50-KARUK, Extension 2500, or email KarukCovid19@karuk.us for more information. You can access other local food resources by using the 211 Resource System; text your ZIP code to 898-211, or call 211 from any phone for more information.

The Karuk Tribe received a very generous donation from the Siskiyou Community Food Bank of five truckloads of potatoes that will be used for future food distributions, and the Humboldt Area Foundation has pledged significant financial support to ensure that food needs can be met during this time.

The Karuk Tribe is also working to establish food security going forward by creating large garden sites in each area. A very generous donation by Pete Cafferata, an Orleans community member, covered the hauling costs for 20 yards of compost and he also set up an account at the local hardware store for water system supplies and soil amendments. This was instrumental in getting the Orleans garden started, so a large YOOTVA (Thank You) to Pete!

In addition to supporting food boxes, the Humboldt Area Foundation also granted \$20,000 to cover supplies and pay some staff time coordinating volunteer work and even some volunteer stipends for work in the garden over the next few months. Many volunteers from the Orleans community as well as DNR staff on Administrative Leave have picked up the ball and started coordinating the start-up of this endeavor. A warm YOOTVA is also due to them all for their support and time!

A second garden site has been started in Happy Camp, and there are plans to expand the garden sites in Yreka, so that all of the produce can be preserved and distributed to Tribal Members later this year.

We encourage everyone to continue to follow CDC guidance, and visit the following sites for more information and updates:

- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/
- National: <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>
- State of California: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- Humboldt County: <https://humboldt.gov.org/2018/HumboldtHealthAlert/>
- Siskiyou County: <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/publichealth/>

Phone: (800) 50-KARUK, Extension 2500

Email: KarukCovid19@karuk.us

Website: www.karuk.us/covid19/

Facebook: [Karuk Tribe](https://www.facebook.com/KarukTribe)

péekrii vúra yávhi (Stay Safe)!

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Photos of Orleans Garden Site Development:





Potato Donation Photos:



