

## **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe - COVID-19 UPDATE**

Tribal Chairman Mike Faith, April 9, 2020, released on SRST FaceBook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC71xu25zr0&feature=youtu.be>

Chairman Faith on camera transcription:

Hau mitakuapi, Chairman Faith, Standing Rock. I want to take this time to put the word out to all residents of Standing Rock to be safe; practice staying at home. Only shop for necessities. Too many people are out. The importance of staying at home, is what it is.

This is not a game. This virus is deadly. With your help, we can get through it.

When you stay home, you must practice the 20-second hand washing. The little ones, make sure they stay at the curfew levels. Again, we may have to increase that. Hopefully not. But again, we need your help to combat this virus that is here.

I declared a state of emergency in March. Since then, we took steps to stop the spread of this virus within our reservation. It's spreading nationwide, worldwide. We need to all help battle that.

Only you can help. We can't do that for you. You have to stay home. You have to be alert. Don't be going places where you shouldn't be. It's dangerous. You could bring something home that's going to affect your family. And it's going to go on to other families. So, again, please practice safety.

The executive order I put in place in March 30<sup>th</sup> – that order was twofold. The first part was for the curfew. It's nothing new; it's been on the books in the code of justice for many, many years. Fourteen and under, 9 O'clock. Seventeen-to-fifteen 10 O'clock. Again, nothing new, it's been there. But it's going to be enforced. Too many students and children are out late hours, coming back home early in the morning. That's no good. We're in a crisis situation. It's deadly. Young ones need to stay home.

The other part of that executive order was asking all people of Standing Rock to shelter in place. Meaning, stay home. If you have to go anywhere, to get gas, or if you have to go to work, if you're essential, you have to go to a medical appointment, that's all understandable. But, do that and get home.

Let's work together on helping each other. Fight through this.

Again, we don't want to go any further if we don't have to. The point is, we all have a responsibility to protect our own; your family, our families, our people of Standing Rock. Without your help, this thing's going to spread like wildfire. People are going to be saying, "what did the tribe do?" I'd have to say, "what did we do?" We didn't practice safety. We didn't listen. We thought it would never happen to us. Again, let's not go there. Let's not get to that point.

With that, ladies and gentlemen of Standing Rock, again Chairman Faith here Tatanka Akicitia, in a good way I come to you today asking you to shelter in place. Keep an eye on each other; watch our elders, watch our youth. Take care of yourself so you can take care of others.

Hau, mitakuye oasin

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