



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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The Colville Tribes Extends the Closure of the Colville Reservation to Non-Essential Visitors

NESPELEM, WA – The Colville Reservation is now closed to non-essential visitors until midnight on May 31, 2021. The previous end-of-year closure date has been extended as part of the Colville Tribes' ongoing effort to stall the spread of COVID-19 within the Colville Reservation.

Access remains allowed for tribal members, non-member residents of the Reservation, employees of the Tribes, delivery, postal and food services, and other pre-approved essential services or outside agency personnel. The state highways on the Reservation also remain open to traffic passing through. These include Highways 155, 97, and 21.

Strict enforcement of general public health rules continues. Individuals must continue to comply with any public health orders they personally receive.

Rodney Cawston, Chairman of the Colville Tribes, said, "The Colville Reservation continues to be threatened by a spike in COVID-19 cases. Like most other places in the country, the health emergency on the Reservation is as serious right now as it has been at any time of this ongoing crisis. Vaccines are beginning to be distributed and we hope that conditions might be safer by next summer. But right now we must redouble our efforts to keep our people safe until this pandemic has passed."

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,472 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəłámxəxʷ (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sčʷyʔilp (sharp pointed

trees) or Colville; šntiyátk^{wəx} (grass in the water) or Entiat; snfáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^{wu} (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx^w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nspelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənp^wilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^{wáwsəx} (people in between) or Wenatchi.