



Tohono O'odham Nation
Office of the
Chairman and Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



Memorandum

To: Tohono O'odham Nation Members and the General Public

From: Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman 
Wavalene M. Saunders, Vice Chairwoman 

Date: April 20, 2021

Re: Executive Order No. 2021-02 – *Withdrawing Provisions of Executive Order No. 2020-09*

Today, April 20, 2021, I issued Executive Order No. 2021-02, which withdraws specific provisions of Executive Order No. 2020-09. This decision comes after careful thought and consideration to the current state of the Nation and after extensive consultation with medical professionals.

Withdrawing specific health measures identified in Executive Order No. 2020-09 has the effect of also withdrawing civil penalties for violations of those measures under the Nation's code. Specifically, the new executive order withdraws the curfew hours and the "sunrise to sunset" requirements of the wake/funeral services provision.

To clarify, the following requirements for wake/funeral services under Executive Order No. 2020-09, Section 6, remain:

- a) At least one (1) individual must be identified as the host/in charge of the wake/funeral services and assumes the responsibility for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, Executive Orders and local district requirements.
- b) Individuals in charge of/hosting wakes/funerals, or their designees, are responsible for ensuring all attendees physically distance from others who do not reside in the same household and wear face coverings at all times during attendance.
- c) All wakes and funeral held on the Nation shall be limited to a combined six (6) hours, from beginning to end. Services must be completed in one (1) calendar day.

*The provisions listed above also continue to carry legal enforcement under the Tohono O'odham Code (4 T.O.C. Chapter 4 – *Violating a Public Health Measure*).

The following are examples of compliant service times:

1. Services beginning at 12:00AM (midnight), ending at 6:00AM

2. Services beginning at 4:00PM, ending at 10:00PM

Section 3 of Executive Order No. 2020-09 regarding curfew hours has been withdrawn in its entirety. No civil citations can be issued for violation of this health measure moving forward.

Please be mindful that Executive Order No. 2021-02 *only withdraws two (2) provisions* of Executive Order No. 2020-09, and all other provisions, such as stay at home orders, face covering requirements, no social gathering or public feedings, etc., remain in effect until further notice. Civil penalties for violation of those health measures also remain in full force.

We are aware that the pandemic has caused us all to pause and alter our normal daily activities. We have issued public health measures in order to protect our people and stop the spread of COVID-19 on the Nation. We are extremely hopeful for the Nation as the number of positive COVID-19 cases have drastically decreased and remained low for the past four (4) weeks. We will continue to regularly assess the health measures and withdraw them when it is safe to do so.

The Vice Chairwoman and I are thankful to the Nation's leadership, Unified Command, frontline workers and members for getting us to where we are today. Remain vigilant. We look forward to the days soon to come where we can gather and embrace.