



## PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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### **Colville Tribes Announces Partial Government Shutdown to Address COVID-19 Virus**

NESPELEM, WA – The Colville Business Council implemented a partial shutdown of Tribal government, effective immediately until April 1, 2020, to halt the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Colville Business Chairman Rodney Cawston said, “No confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported on the Colville Reservation. But medical evidence suggests that social isolation taken as early as possible, and frequently washing your hands, is the best means to stop or slow the progress of this dangerous virus. The first priority of the Colville Tribes is always to safeguard public health to the greatest extent possible, and this shutdown will keep our community more safe.”

Essential government services will continue to be provided. Employees of the Colville Tribes should contact their supervisors as soon as possible to determine whether they will continue to report to work to provide essential services or whether they are asked to remain home on leave during this shutdown.

Chairman Cawston said, “This shutdown is not a vacation. Employees on leave, and everyone, should remain home as much as possible and avoid interaction with others, as that interaction is how the virus spreads.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,533 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: ščəlámxəx<sup>w</sup> (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ<sup>w</sup>y?ilp (sharp pointed

trees) or Colville; šntiyátk<sup>wəx</sup> (grass in the water) or Entiat; snšáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx<sup>wu</sup> (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx<sup>w</sup> (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<sup>wilx</sup> (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq<sup>wáwsəx</sup> (people in between) or Wenatchi.