



December 9, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Tribal Leader:

I would like to invite you and your representatives to a one-hour national Resource Briefing (Briefing) for tribes regarding COVID-19 and Indian gaming operations. The Briefing will explain key National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) resources in the fight against the pandemic's impact on Indian gaming. In addition, the Briefing session will dedicate half of its agenda time for tribal leaders' questions, comments, and insights on best practices for addressing the challenges COVID-19 presents to Indian gaming's regulation.

The Briefing will take place on Wednesday December 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. eastern time via video conference. The Briefing will be recorded and made available on the NIGC webpage. You and your team may register for the video conference event by using the following link [NIGC Resource Briefing Registration](#) or by visiting the NIGC webpage at www.nigc.gov. For assistance or questions on how to register, please contact Lisa Naughton at lisa.naughton@nigc.gov.

In preparation for the Briefing I want to keep you aware of the attention the NIGC has consistently given to its tools and guidance for tribes and Indian gaming operations on the topic of COVID-19. These NIGC efforts contribute to the local assessments and solutions that are necessary for a national response. These efforts are also part of the NIGC's agency-wide focus on promoting preparedness across the Indian gaming industry.

The NIGC has developed planning and response tools for the Indian gaming industry.

The NIGC continues to develop a number of tools tailored to the gaming operations that tribes and the NIGC regulate. These tools have been developed by subject matter experts in conjunction with the NIGC's regulatory knowledge and insights. All of these tools and other resources are available at <https://www.nigc.gov/commission>. These tools include the below items.

MAILING ADDRESS: NIGC/DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop #1621 Washington, DC 20040 Tel: 202.632.7003 Fax: 202.632.7066

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- A Model Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan designed to account for and help protect the health and safety of a tribe's employees and patrons using national standards applicable to the Indian gaming industry.
- An emergency closure checklist assists with planning and protocols if it becomes necessary for an operation's rapid closure as well as a checklist and assessment tool to gauge an operation's measures to ensure a facility's environment, public health and safety.
- A Tribal Cyber Security Readiness primer is available to assist tribes' IT controls, processes and procedures so that tribal operations can avoid and minimize damage from cyberattacks during times when operations are temporarily closed or restricted because of the pandemic.
- An extensive Frequently Asked Questions compendium is organized according to operations' typical workflow and regulatory topics which also includes guidance on the use of face masks.

The NIGC has maintained a broad communication network to coordinate information sharing.

The NIGC continues to use multiple communication tools to enhance resources, monitor the impact from and response to the pandemic, and disseminate information the NIGC intends to be valuable for tribal decision makers. These tools include the below items.

- A dedicated email account named COVID.Resources@nigc.gov is available to manage and quickly respond to inquiries from tribal government and operations' representatives.
- An info-graphic document entitled "NIGC By the Numbers" features a collection of industry activity data that the NIGC updates multiple times each month.
- A collection of the NIGC's external communications about the pandemic including Dear Tribal Leader Letters, internal NIGC memoranda directing staff responses to the pandemic's impact on the Indian gaming industry, NIGC media announcements, and an NIGC video series entitled "Vital Voices: Tribal Leaders' Perspectives on Indian Gaming's Response to COVID-19" are cataloged on the NIGC website.
- The NIGC maintains its presentations and a summary report of the four-month long outreach effort that reached over 1,000 participants with representatives from 143 tribes, representing approximately 53% of the Indian gaming industry.

The NIGC has regularly assessed and enhanced its resources in order to promote effective solutions.

The NIGC continually assess the circumstances around the pandemic's impact in order to update NIGC resources. Since early in the pandemic the NIGC looked at what practices and innovations will promote the local solutions necessary for an effective national response. These assessments bring together subject matter experts to help ensure the NIGC's resources remain timely, accurate and valuable. These efforts include the below items.

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- A regular briefing of NIGC leadership led by the directors from the NIGC's eight regions for local level insights on the pandemic and updates for the regions' ongoing tribal-level outreach.
- A regular meeting with the NIGC, the Indian Health Service and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to anticipate what planning and response are necessary to coordinate support around Indian gaming's response to the pandemic.
- The NIGC's participation in an administration-wide COVID response team for Indian country.
- A routine examination of NIGC material to ensure the Agency's operations and processes remain current and are informed by public health and safety expertise.

The NIGC shares tribal leaders' focus on the protection of tribal assets through a responsibly regulated Indian gaming industry. This focus is important to the maintenance of Indian gaming's sustainability and the future benefit Indian gaming can provide for tribal economic self-sufficiency, improved lives in Indian country, and local economic success. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to our shared efforts.

The Commission intends for the Wednesday, December 16, 2020 Briefing to be a valuable investment of your time. I hope you will be able to join the video conference live or review the recorded video conference at a later date.

Sincerely,



E. Sequoyah Simermeyer
Chairman

CC: Tribal Gaming Regulatory Authority