



*Chief Sachem's Office*

## *Narragansett Indian Tribe*

1-401-364-1100 1-800-287-4225

Fax (401) 364-1104

TDD - 711

March 31, 2020

Greetings Tribal Community,

As Chief Sachem, it is my duty to represent the vested interests of our Tribe. It is a daily task that I do not take lightly, nor do I take it for granted. Our country is in crisis due to COVID-19. In that, our own Tribal Community is at risk greatly...the threat to health and life is very real with this virus, and it is my obligation as Chief Sachem to assist my people in dealing with this emergency.

To that end, I would first like to dispel any rumors and innuendo that have surfaced amongst Tribal Community. If you have specific questions pertaining to COVID-19, and the Tribe's response, please call the Tribal Administration directly at 401-364-1100, extension 203. Please do not go off of what is offered on social media as "information"; 99.99% of the time the "information" provided on social media is misconstrued at best, but mainly untrue. First and foremost, the Narragansett Indian Tribe is not the United States Federal Government. While the Tribe is expecting funding from the federal government under the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security" Act, also referred to as the "CARES" Act, it is earmarked for *very specific purposes* (i.e. ppe-personal protective equipment for NIHC, testing equipment for NIHC, and nutritional support for our Tribal Seniors). There is **not** an allocated amount of funding that will be directly disbursed to individual Tribal Members. As part of the overall stimulus package, the caveat of funding made available to individuals/families is outlined in Section 6428. 2020, "Recovery Rebates for Individuals", and is made available to the eligible general population of the United States. For further information regarding this payment, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>.

The immediate priority of my office is ensuring that our Tribal Seniors are taken care of. As with any Native Community our Tribal Seniors are the wisdom keepers, storytellers, and most importantly the most vulnerable demographic within the COVID-19 crisis. It is because of this; an announcement will be made the beginning of next week regarding the distribution of nutritional supplementation in the form of food baskets to our Tribal Senior population. Please understand that this is the first step of many to ensure the Tribal Community is provided for.

I would also urge all Tribal Members who reside in the State of Rhode Island to visit <https://health.ri.gov/covid/> as there are a myriad of services and information available to aide in the current state of emergency.

*P.O. Box 1354 • 4533 South County Trail • Charlestown • Rhode Island 02813*

*This institution is an equal opportunity Employer/Provider*

Should you have department specific inquiries/requests, please feel free to reach out to the respective departments. Please keep in mind that the Tribe has also declared a State of Emergency, protocol and instruction as to how to reach each individual department was outlined in the tribal mailing that was sent out on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020. Said information may also be found on the Tribe's website, at <http://narragansettindiannation.org/nit-covid-19coronavirus-updates/>.

From this point moving forward please expect a weekly COVID-19 update from my office *to be posted on the Tribe's website*. Some weeks there may not be much to update on, but I will make the commitment to keep the Tribal Community informed to the best of my ability.

We are facing unprecedented times. The damage already inflicted by COVID-19 is unparalleled. Please keep yourself and your families safe. Practice social distancing. Wash your hands multiple times a day. If you are sick, PLEASE stay home. If you are in need or have any questions pertaining to the Tribe's response to COVID-19, please feel free to call me directly, at 401-364-1100, x 203.

If we all do our part, we will come out of this trying time stronger than ever.

Be well, and take care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Dean Stanton".

Chief Sachem Anthony Dean Stanton