Executive Order #6
March 21st, 2020

EBCI SUSPENDS OPERATIONS & LIMITS ACCESS

On Friday March 13th I issued a State of Emergency for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians due to COVID-19. I am today issuing the following order to supplement and amend the State of Emergency Declaration issued previously. This order will be effective beginning Monday March 23rd, 2020 at 12 p.m. and will remain in effect until further notice. The restrictions in this order are necessary to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately, the EBCI will suspend all tribal operations and close all tribal offices except for employees who are required to work to maintain critical services of the EBCI. The employees on this list will be developed as need arises. Any Tribal employee may be called into service based upon the needs of the EBCI. Any critical employee who is required to work during this amended State of Emergency will be paid double-time for the hours they are required to work. All other employees will be compensated at their regular rate of pay. Any updates to this order will be announced when they are available.

All non-essential businesses must close no later than Monday, March 23rd. The following essential businesses will be allowed to remain open:

- Grocery & Convenience Stores/Gas Stations
- Hospital & Healthcare Services
- Food Pantries & Banks
- Automotive Repair Services
- Pharmacies
- Mail Services
- Sanitation Services
- Banking Institutions
Residential Maintenance & Repair Services  
Restaurants (Take-Out & Delivery ONLY) No Outside Dining

I am hereby issuing a stay-at-home order. We strongly encourage community members to stay at home to the fullest extent possible. Please limit all off-boundary travel to trips necessary to obtain medical services and to buy groceries. We recommend families who have to travel should do so with as few family members as possible while performing essential tasks. I encourage everyone to continue to go outside to walk, exercise and get some sun. In all cases, people should follow recommendations for social distancing, in particular maintaining at least a six-foot separation from others in public spaces.

I strongly encourage churches to hereafter suspend all congregational services. I highly recommend finding creative ways to deliver your message such as incorporating the use of social media (Facebook & YouTube).

All forms of fishing are hereby closed to everyone except tribal citizens, their spouses, and first descendants. This includes the catch and release waters. Fishing season will open Sunday March 22nd for tribal citizens, their spouses, and first descendants.

Roads entering and exiting the Qualla Boundary will be closed except for travel to provide critical services. Entrance to the Qualla Boundary will be limited to commercial goods/services being delivered to the Qualla Boundary, hospital/critical employees, contracted workers performing critical services, tribal/federal government services, and residents and their families. If you are returning home from an extended visit to another location, please self-monitor and quarantine for 14 days. We are strongly encouraging tribal citizens to remain on tribal lands during this state of emergency. If you have a need to travel, please limit to crucial functions including medical/grocery services.

Access to the Qualla Boundary will be limited to three points, which will be manned by the Cherokee Indian Police Department. These access points include:
  - Highway 441 at Casino Trail Junction
  - Highway 19 South at Birdtown
  - Highway 19 North at Soco
All other access points will be closed. This order will be effective starting at noon on Monday March 23rd. This shall apply tribal lands that are not contiguous to the Qualla Boundary, including the Snowbird, Cherokee County and 3200 Acre Tract communities.

All law enforcement personnel under the control of the Tribe and its entities are hereby detailed to the Cherokee Indian Police Department and shall report to the Chief of
Police. This includes all Tribal alcohol law enforcement officers (TABCC Officers) and Probation Officers.

This authorization is issued under authority granted in Cherokee Code Chapter 166, Article II, and the Declaration of State of Emergency issued on March 13, 2020. It is a supplement and amendment to that Declaration and shall remain in effect while the Tribe is under the State of Emergency.

Richard Sneed, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians