**National Park Service**

**Closure of Facilities/Parks and Cancellation of Large Events**

Instructions: To document decisions related to closure of facilities/parks and cancellation of large events, please fill out the below form and submit to [IMR\_IMT@nps.gov](mailto:IMR_IMT@nps.gov) for notification and coordination purposes.

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| Park | Date |
| Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CHCU) | 4/23/2020 |

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| Event, program, service, facility, park unit being closed |
| CHCU park operating hours and the Gallo Campground at CHCU will continue to be temporarily closed until May 24th.  Apr 21 – CHCU IMT conducted a second assessment to continue to keep the Gallo campground closed due to the same conditions identified during the Mar 23 risk assessment. CHCU’s park hours change to 9:00pm on May 1 as identified in the Superintendent’s Compendium. Due to essential employee staffing only at the park, CHCU park hours will remain at the current Winter/Spring closure time of 5:00pm.  Mar 23 - CHCU management undertook a detailed risk assessment of park visitor facilities, which resulted in the original decision to temporarily close the park’s Gallo campground. Park management considered it high risk to keep these facilities open given the New Mexico state limitations put on gathering sizes (no more than 5 people) and the reduced ability to maintain 6’ social distance based on CDC guidelines. |

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| **Current state or local public health advisories. Provide all details.** |
| **San Juan County and McKinley County**  Chaco Culture NHP resides in the Northwest corner of New Mexico and is within San Juan Cty and McKinley Cty. COVID19 positive cases were initially highest in counties near major population centers (Albuquerque and Santa Fe). Farmington and Gallup are the two largest cities near Chaco Culture NHP and within the same counties. These counties are now experiencing the largest growth in positive cases in the state. Without seeing a leveling off of positive cases in our area, we believe the risk to employees and visitors is still high. <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/public-dashboard.html>  **Navajo Nation**  Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive testing numbers are some of the highest in the state with their government establishing nightly and 57hr weekend curfews for all residents monitored by regular traffic checkpoints for all vehicles on the road after 5:00pm. Navajo Nation Public Health Order issued on Mar 29th extends the earlier Stay at Home Order. Chaco Culture NHP lies within Navajo Nation Off-Reservation Trust Land with access to the park from the West by roads crossing Navajo Nation proper, therefore these restrictions will impact any visitors during curfew hours. Apr 22, Navajo Nation President issued another executive order extending their state of emergency through May 17th.  <https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2020/Apr/EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%20NO%20003-20%20COVID%2019.pdf>  **State of New Mexico**  April 21 public health order has been extended to May 15th. April 6, 2020, Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of the State of New Mexico extended the original Mar 19 Executive Order to April 30. <https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/PHO-4-6-2020.pdf>  On March 19, 2020, Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of the State of New Mexico, declared in Executive Order 2020-004, that a Public Health Emergency exists in New Mexico. The governor has directed that “Typical business environments that are not engaged in the provision of an essential service should limit operations to the greatest extent possible and minimize employee contact.” The Governor also advised that “New Mexico citizens must stay at home and undertake only those outings absolutely necessary for their health, safety, or welfare.”  <https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UPDATED-DOH-PHO-03-19-2020-r.pdf>  **The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines For America**  “In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.”  <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf>  **CDC**  If there is minimal or moderate spread in your community: 3/16/20 UPDATE: During the next 15 days, all U.S. events of 10+ people should be cancelled or held virtually.  <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html>  **OSHA**  OSHA industrial hygiene practices recommend PPE (gloves and mask) for applying disinfectants and those performing any aerosol-generating procedures need to use respirators.  <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910#1910_Subpart_I>  <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> |

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| **Summary of risk and why you are closing/canceling.** |
| 1. The park does not have enough staff to reopen the campground and protect the cultural resources for 14hrs in a day.    1. On March 20, in response to the Governor of Mexico’s Executive Order 2020-004, the Region 6,7, and 8 deputy director advised New Mexico parks to reduce staffing levels to essential personnel only. At CHCU this includes law enforcement, water system operators, and janitorial staff. All non-essential staff were directed to telework.    2. Currently, based on Winter/Spring hours of 7:00am to 5:pm, essential staff can open and close park gates and monitor cultural resources (Chaco Great Houses) with current visitation numbers. Moving to Summer/Fall hours of 7:00am to 9:00pm will stretch essential employees ability to safely protect the resource.    3. Reopening Gallo campground would further stretch the essential employees by increasing the potential number of visitors who can stay in the park. CHCU has sent all camp host VIPs home due to the initial Mar 23 campground closure and safety concerns of our volunteers in the high-risk category for COVID-19.    4. CHCU does will not be staffing any seasonal Law Enforcement Rangers for 2020, so our protection staff numbers will not increase. Interpretive staff hiring has been moved to May 24th so we do not have the ability to educate and inform the visitor on how to properly care and protect the resource before those additional non-LE staff arrive in park. 2. Reopening CHCU’s Gallo Campground potentially violates the CDC and presidential guidance.    1. If fully booked, Gallo Campground can potentially hold over 100 campers. While not in an enclosed space, the risk of transmission is high in this environment. Campsites are within a few feet from each other and there is only one public restroom facility. The conditions in the campground prohibit campers from strictly adhering to social distancing guidance. 3. The park does not have enough PPE to keep these facilities open.    1. Obtaining PPE has become almost impossible without compromising the needs of medical professionals and other priority customers.    2. The campground sees heavy use hourly and creates a situation where far more than 10 people contact shared surfaces between cleanings.    3. Current PPE supplies will not allow the park to adequately clean these facilities while keeping other restroom facilities open to the public.    4. Current levels of PPE will allow the park to maintain essential operations for approximately thirty days. This does not include the PPE required to adequately clean the campground or campground staff safe while performing their jobs. |

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| **Key communication messages to public.** |
| Following CDC, Navajo Nation, County and State of New Mexico Public Health Guidance in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Chaco Culture NHP will keep the campground closed until May 24th. Park closing hours will remain 5:00pm until May 24th. These closures are to protect the health of visitors and park staff and in support of local and nationwide efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). |

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| **Superintendent Approval** |
| /s/ Denise Robertson |