



**MESCALERO** Apache **TRIBE**

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May 24, 2020

**VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [james.vepley@bia.gov](mailto:james.vepley@bia.gov),  
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James Vepley, Chief  
Bureau of Indian Affairs-Law Enforcement  
Mescalero Agency  
Mescalero, NM 88340

Tyner Cervantes, Chief  
Mescalero Conservation Law Enforcement  
Department  
Mescalero, NM 88340

Graham Leach  
Chief Prosecutor  
Mescalero Apache Tribe  
Mescalero, NM 88340

Chief Vepley, Chief Cervantes & Chief Prosecutor Leach:

Good morning. Yesterday, I issued Executive Order 20-05 which implements restrictions that essentially lockdown the Mescalero Apache Reservation. I attached a copy for your convenience. I also attached a "Notice of Lockdown" (the "Notice") that explains the lockdown. Both Executive Order 20-05 and the Notice have been widely disseminated in the community. As with prior Executive Orders, the lockdown restrictions carry the force of law and violations can result in criminal prosecution or removal from the Reservation (non-Tribal members).

I write to ask each of your departments to take this lock down seriously. I am sure you understand the gravity of the situation. The lives of Tribal members are at stake and the Tribe must do everything we can to keep people safe. Enforcement of these restrictions is the Tribe's top priority. We need you to enforce these restrictions strictly. Specifically, the Tribe is asking that you:

- Cite violators; we cannot afford to let people off with a warning.
- Where there is a large gathering at a home or outside a home, please cite each person present and the homeowner/assignment holder. Over the last couple of

days, we spent hours tracking down individuals that were possibly exposed because they attended a house party. Parties must stop.

- Ask for maximum fines allowable by law and ask for incarceration for repeat offenders.
- Spend as little time in the squad room and patrol neighborhoods as frequently as possible. Respond quickly to calls.
- Escort medical and Tribal staff when there is a safety concern.
- Wear PPE any time others are present. We need you to stay healthy.
- Communicate with the Tribe as much as possible

In conclusion, we know this is a lot of work. Please ask your officers and staff to keep the community's safety in mind. I know that they will step up if you remind them that we are all in this together. We can stop this virus if we work hard now. I cannot stress this enough, without your dedication to enforcing these restrictions, there could be dire consequences.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabe Aguilar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gabe Aguilar  
President