PRESS RELEASE

March 26, 2020

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Announces First Positive COVID-19 Case

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation has been notified by its Wassaja Memorial Health Center that a recently deceased community member (non-Fort McDowell tribal citizen) tested positive for COVID-19. The individual died prior to the release of the test result. The deceased was a 49-year-old male with underlying health conditions. Tribal and community members with close contacts of the deceased are taking recommended precautions of self-quarantine and self-monitoring for symptoms as recommended by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). At this time, none of these individuals are having consistent symptoms of COVID-19 and are being closely monitored by the Nation’s medical team.

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation will continue to follow CDC guidelines. All nonessential tribal government departments have been shut down since March 18, 2020, as well as the Nation’s We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. Events, gatherings or meetings of more than 10 people have been canceled. Tribal members, community members and employees have been urged to continue adhering to public health guidelines involving personal hygiene and social distancing.

These are difficult times for all us as we continue to all do our part to combat the spread of COVID-19. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost friends or family members to this pandemic.

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