



March 18, 2020

Dear SAIGE Members and Friends:

As you know, our nation is currently undergoing a serious crisis with the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) has been monitoring the situation by reviewing Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

We are aware that both our Federal and Tribal families have received guidance from OPM and their tribal governments, and we have been concerned about the safety and health of our membership and attendees who planned to attend our training in Oklahoma in June of this year.

Due to the extreme health risks and safety concerns for our attendees, and the announcement from the President of the United States issuing a Proclamation of National Emergency, we are canceling our 2020 event. We have been working closely with our host hotel, River Spirit, to retain the dates of June 28th-July 2, **2021** for our next National Training Program. We are in discussions to host a joint workshop with another non-profit and to research the possibility of a webinar series.

We will continue to keep you posted throughout this time using our website, Facebook and emails. SAIGE will follow the guidance of CDC and [Office of Personnel Management \(OPM\)](#), promising to continue our commitment to community and member safety. Please monitor your own agency's telework policy. We believe it is important to ensure that a plan is in place in our response to an impact of an infectious disease outbreak.

To remain safe and prevent illness in others, people who have symptoms of respiratory illness are encouraged to stay home and not go to work until they are free of fever (100.4 or greater) for at least 24 hours. You may visit the [CDC website](#) for updates and more information on how it spreads, prevention and treatment.

The CDC suggests to exercise cough and sneeze etiquette.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in a waste basket.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hand.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.

1. Practice Hand Hygiene. See the [CDC Clean Hands Webpage](#) for further details.
2. Perform routine environmental cleaning.
3. Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace. Wipe down your desks, keyboards and telephones regularly.
4. Wipe down kitchen counters after use.

Remember it is up to all of us to make safety a priority. Please stay calm and play your part in helping to contain this infectious disease outbreak.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this process and we wish you good health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fredericka J. Joseph'.

Fredericka Joseph  
Chair, SAIGE Board of Directors