



A Letter From Chief William L. Fisher: COVID-19 Update

None of us needs a reminder that the COVID-19 continues to disrupt everyone's lives. The economic impact of the shutdown has touched all of us. The recent outbreak in Grove means that many of us know people who have been infected. There is still a lot of uncertainty about how, and when, this pandemic will subside. In this letter, I want to share what we are doing to reopen and restart some services safely and prepare for a full resumption of services as soon as possible.

Currently, most Seneca-Cayuga Nation facilities and services are closed. For example, the AOA and Fitness Center are closed, and the Tag Agency is only processing mail-in registrations. These closings are necessary for the safety of the community and are in line with guidelines from health officials.

Grand Lake Casino is also closed. Because the money we earn on gaming, food, and beverages at that location funds most of our benefits, services, and operations, this has had a significant impact on our finances. Additionally, we operate under a General Counsel resolution that prevents the Nation from retaining earnings for cases of crisis, like the current pandemic. This legacy operating philosophy means as soon as Grand Lake Casino closed, we have very little money to fund benefits, services, and operations.

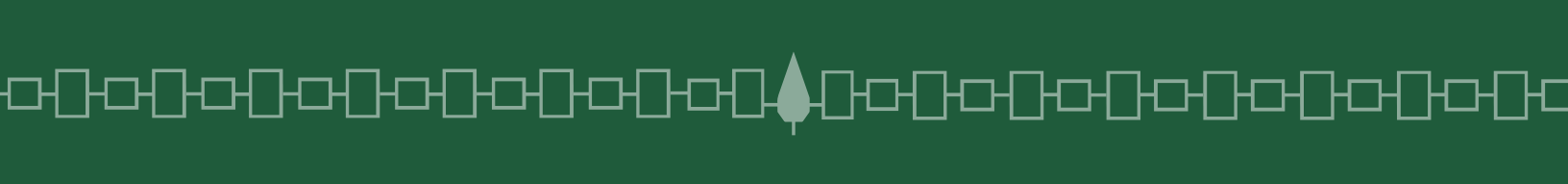
There is good news though.

When I was elected in 2013, Grand Lake Casino and other Tribal operations had long lists of deferred maintenance, a lot of debt, and we were party to many bad contracts. The business was not healthy. We have worked hard to make Grand Lake Casino profitable and sustainable. We have paid off debt and caught up on maintenance. We have renegotiated contracts and modernized our operations. Most importantly, we have invested in developing a strong leadership team at Grand Lake Casino. The leadership team has been very forward-looking, initiating many recent improvements, including a new food venue inside the Casino.

We have faced competition from several new Casinos, including Indigo Sky Casino, Cherokee Casino Grove, and River Bend Casino. Despite increasing competition, Grand Lake Casino is performing better than ever, which means more money for the Nation as a whole.

All of this past work means we are well-positioned to come through this crisis. Because we don't have any debt and do not answer to creditors, we can open on our own timeline. We have been able to take advantage of the shutdown to replace the carpet and finish up other projects that were already in motion at our casino and we will be ready when it is time to open.

We do not currently know when Grand Lake Casino will reopen. We are committed to a timeline that is safe for employees and guests and will be good for the Casino's long term image and reputation. We also cannot predict the impact COVID-19 will have on future revenues. Business may be up as people are ready to leave their homes and return to a feeling of normal. Business may be down if safety and economic considerations keep people away. We are committed to achieving the highest level of performance possible, no matter the surrounding environment.



Several weeks ago, the leadership team at Grand Lake Casino started planning for our reopening. This planning includes policies for guests and employees to wear face coverings in certain areas, strategic placement of hand sanitizer stations around the Casino, implementing social distancing practices, and doing wellness checks for both team members and guests before they enter the property. The plan is thorough and includes details that will not be visible to guests. Even the air filters in the bathroom hand dryers will be checked to ensure they offer maximum protection!

When we open, we will have the most stringent health and sanitation practices of any casino in Northeast Oklahoma. We are committed to retaining the trust and confidence of our team members, our guests, and our community that we have worked very hard to earn. Maintaining trust will pave the way to revenue growth that will allow our Nation to begin funding all of our benefits again.

From a financial perspective, opening Grand Lake Casino will have the most impact on our operation. Nearly every benefit and service is dependent on casino revenue. Unfortunately, until the Casino starts producing income again, most benefit payments are on hold. Once the money is available, benefits will be paid in the order applications were received. This will not be a fast process, it will take time for the Casino to start generating revenue, and there will be a backlog of benefit payments to work through. All I can do is ask for patience.

We have been working to secure funding from other sources, which will allow us to reopen specific services. Most of this money is from the CARES Act and comes with strict guidelines that limit how we can use it.

For example, we have secured funding to reopen the AOA from the CARES Act. We are planning how to open safely. Once open, the AOA will offer three hot meals a week. When people come, they will get a hot meal for that day and a pre-packaged meal for the next day. There will be no dining in, and all pickup will be curbside. We are currently working to secure masks and other protective equipment for staff. We have also obtained half a million dollars from the CARES Act, which is designated for childcare. This money will be used to continue our existing childcare programs. For updates on the AOA and other programs, check out our Facebook page and morescnation.com.

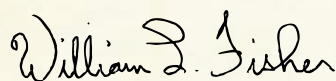
For now, other facilities and services, such as the fitness center, remain closed. We are planning a phased reopen for Seneca-Cayuga Nation offices. Staff will work staggered days to minimize the number of people in the building. Their focus will be on laying the groundwork for a smooth and full reopen.



All of us at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation are committed to making it through this crisis and protecting the long-term health and sustainability of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

For the latest information and updates of when facilities are open, or services are available find the official Seneca-Cayuga Nation Facebook page or visit morescnation.com.

Please be safe, and I hope we all stay healthy. Thank you.



William L. Fisher, Chief

**Keep up with the latest news, events, and updates
from the Seneca-Cayuga Nation:**

Official Facebook:

www.facebook.com/OfficialSenecaCayugaNation

The latest news and updates: www.morescnation.com

Access benefits and government information: www.sctribe.com