

WEST RIVER EAGLE

Frazier: Every life does matter to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Alaina Beautiful Bald Eagle on May 27, 2020

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PHOTO BY ALAINA BEAUTIFUL BALD EAGLE

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier conducts daily addresses to the nation with updates about the Tribe's COVID-19 response.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe remains in Level 3 of their COVID-19 Response Plan, said CRST Chairman Harold Frazier in his daily address this afternoon.

The chairman apologized and said the meeting between himself, CRST Tribal Council, and the team of medical specialists did not take place yesterday afternoon as planned. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for this Friday, said Frazier.

As he does every day, the chairman went over coronavirus numbers from the state and sister tribal nations:

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Oglala Sioux Tribe reported 23 positive cases, while Sisseton Wahpeton has 56. Rosebud suffered its first COVID-19 death and has 36 positive cases.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with our relatives during this time,” said Chairman Frazier.

On Cheyenne River, 401 tests have been administered at the Cheyenne River Health Center in Eagle Butte, with only one positive case that was reported in April. To date, there are 678 test kits available at the Eagle Butte Service Unit, according to the chairman.

Checkpoint contention from State

There has been no additional communication from the State of South Dakota regarding Governor Kristi Noem’s disputation of the public health checkpoints set up by the Tribe.

The chairman also said that the Tribe has received communication about mass testing on the reservation, stating that there is “good communication” between the Tribal medical team and the State Department of Health.

“We’re going to hurt feelings”

The tribal leader echoed the message he has consistently shared throughout the Tribe’s pandemic response- the checkpoints remain in place and will continue to operate as long as needed.

“It’s unfortunate that we’re going to hurt feelings and kind of change people’s way of life, but the ultimate goal is to keep everybody safe, healthy, and prevent loss of life related to this virus... We got to be stronger. Have faith in whatever way you pray. Every life does matter to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, it doesn’t matter what age or what color. Life does matter to us and that’s why we’re doing these things and trying to save everybody.”

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