



Tribal Emergency Declaration on the Opioid Epidemic Checklist

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The American Indian Health Commission has prepared this document for Tribes who are considering, or are in the process of issuing, a Tribal Emergency Declaration on the opioid epidemic. The checklist was based on Tribal input and an extensive review of powers exercised by Tribal and state jurisdictions in responding to opioid overdoses and fatalities within their communities. We will continue to update this checklist as we collect more Tribal input. In conjunction with this document, Tribes may also use the [Template Tribal Resolution for Tribal Declaration of Emergency on the Opioid Epidemic](#).

PRE-DECLARATION STEPS

Before making a declaration and exercising emergency powers, the Tribal council can take the following steps:

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|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Evaluate. Conduct an evaluation to determine if an emergency declaration is an appropriate tool for responding to the opioid crisis within your Tribe’s jurisdiction. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Identify Benefits. Possible benefits include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Exercise of Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal public health powersb. Puts the federal, state, and local governments on notice that the Tribe is experiencing an urgent and deadly crisis and requires assistance and support.c. Increases coordination and collaboration across Tribal departments.d. Increases coordination and collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions.e. Can expedite modification of Tribal rules and policies for a faster emergency response.f. Can allow for reallocation of Tribal funds to support the emergency response. |

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<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Get Buy-In. Gather feedback and input from key stakeholders (community members, Tribal public health officer, Tribal emergency management, Tribal emergency response staff, Tribal law enforcement, Tribal first responders or contracted responders, appropriate federal and state agencies, neighboring local health jurisdictions).
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Set a Timeframe. Decide how the emergency should conclude. Setting a timeline to sunset the declaration will help prevent the emergency from going on indefinitely as well as other additional challenges, such as having to make difficult political decisions.

Example Emergency Declaration Action Items

Select from any of the following items to include in the Tribal Emergency Declaration Resolution and/or in a Tribal Action Plan.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Taskforce. Establish an Emergency Response Opioid <u>Taskforce</u> and identify the following: (1) what responsibilities the Tribal council assigns to the Taskforce; and (2) membership (see below for example list). Responsibilities can include the action items found within this checklist. The Tribal council may also want to consider dividing the Taskforce into subcommittees if the membership is too large to manage.	
	a. <input type="checkbox"/> General Manager/Tribal Administrator	b. <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Emergency Management
	c. <input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Tribal Law Enforcement	d. <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Behavioral Health
	e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reservation Attorney/Prosecutor	f. <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Public Health Officer
	g. <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Clinic Director	h. <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Tribal Court Judge
	i. <input type="checkbox"/> Director of Child Welfare	j. <input type="checkbox"/> Director of Human Services
	k. <input type="checkbox"/> Director of Communications	l. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Tribal Action Plan. Develop a <u>Tribal Action Plan</u> to address the State of Emergency and determine factors for ending the emergency.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Intra-Tribal Coordination. Require <u>coordination and collaboration across Tribal departments</u> .	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Cross-Jurisdiction Coordination. Require <u>coordination and collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions</u> .	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Employee Training on Naloxone. Require policies and procedures for Tribal <u>employee training and administration of naloxone</u> consistent with national best practices.	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Communications. Institute <u>public information</u> and awareness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Procurement. Authorize <u>procurement</u> of supplies and equipment to control and eliminate the opioid crisis.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Rule and Policy Amendment. Authorize amendments and/or rescissions to any Tribal rules, regulations, orders, and plans as may be necessary to help respond to the emergency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Tribal Exclusion Laws. Utilize the Tribe's exclusion laws to remove individuals dealing drugs on Tribal land.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Funding. Seek assistance from all federal, state, and Tribal, local, and volunteer resources, including funding available to respond to the emergency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Data Gathering. <u>Gather data</u> on the following:
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Fatalities resulting from opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. The impact to families, including the number of children displaced from their home because of the opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. The number of terminations from employment and disciplinary actions at the workplace resulting from the opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. The number of evictions from Tribal housing resulting from the opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	e. The number of prosecutions resulting from the opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	f. The number of substance use referrals resulting from the opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	g. The number of truancy actions resulting from the opioid crisis
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Pain Care Management. Institute a pain care management navigator to work with the Tribal clinic prescribing providers and the Tribal pharmacy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Policy Review. Review all Tribal department policies and plans and revise as needed to help respond to the opioid crisis.