

Traditional/Cultural practices during COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus

A letter from Patricia Toulouse

The question has been raised on the safety of individuals continuing to congregate for spiritual forms of healing whether it is at a church, sacred fire, sweat lodge or other forms that gather individuals to be within proximity of 6 feet.

The belief that Creator heals is one that I myself believe with my whole heart and soul. I know that all healing comes from Creator which is why your offerings and prayers are of utmost importance. I also believe that when creator placed us here we were given the gift of “freewill” so our actions create a reaction. To make my point congregating to pray while the prayers are of utmost importance the act of our freewill to congregate (if infected) will/may have a reaction. Prayers can be made at home they still hold the same force/power no matter where you place your offering, prayer.

Does this mean that I am contradicting my belief in Creator, prayer or medicine? No, I have faith in prayer, medicine and my Creator. This doesn't mean that I would put myself in harms way, I will continue to take all precautions with PPE, isolate and keep my distance for your safety and mine. Medicine does not require congregation and we do not need to gather to make offerings or pray.

We know that COVID-19 is transferred by spit and that it is also an airborne virus which increases the risk of transmission by simply being within an area where COVID-19 remains. So simply washing hands and masks may not be the only course of action required for your safety. The virus can be taken into your home on clothing, shoes, on food or anything else you get in any public place and live for a number of hours and up to a number of days on surfaces.

What we do know about the safety of you and your loved ones is to listen to the health and safety precautions advised and also in accordance with the law. These are difficult times and we are all in this together. In order to stay together we must isolate until the threat that infects and threatens our existence has passed.

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