



**For Immediate Release:** March 17, 2020

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### **Blackbird Bend Temporarily Suspends Operations**

Blackbird Bend Casino near Onawa, Iowa will temporarily suspend operations until 12:00pm on Tuesday, March 31 in accordance with an emergency declaration by the Omaha Tribal Council. The decision also mirrors Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' Public Health Disaster Emergency proclamation issued today that seeks to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"First and foremost, we want to safeguard the health and safety of our guests and team members," said Brad Appleton, Chief Operating Officer for the Blackbird Bend Corporation. "Despite the diligent precautions we already had in place, we will comply with these directives because we believe today's decisions were based on credible information from state and federal health agencies."

Appleton said the casino would be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized while casino operations are suspended. "We will be in a position to offer our guests and staff a very safe environment when we reopen," he added. "Through the duration of this crisis, our management team will continue to monitor information from government sources in order to make decisions that serve the best interests of our customers and dedicated team members."

Blackbird Bend will keep the public updated on any developments through its website, [www.blackbirdbend.com](http://www.blackbirdbend.com), and its Facebook page.

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