



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health to COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Study on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and

WHEREAS, The Council, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, has conducted research projects for 40 years, which aim to raise the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, The Tribe, the Emergency Operations Center, Community Health Representative Program, the Indian Health Service, Johns Hopkins and many other agencies have worked tirelessly to address novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”), which virus has created a worldwide pandemic, infecting hundreds of thousands of people and causing tens of thousands of deaths; and

WHEREAS, On March 31, 2020, via Resolution 03-2020-72, the Council approved Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health to secure funding in order to address the COVID-19 virus within the Reservation and support the following activities:

- 1) Conduct surveillance for COVID-19 to characterize the clinical course, identify important risk and protective factors for disease; and determine patterns of transmission and the number of people who have been infected, recovered or carry the disease;
- 2) Identify and evaluate potential treatment and prevention strategies that may include anti-viral therapies, treatment with purified plasma from those who have recovered from the disease, and new vaccines to prevent or reduce the disease;
- 3) Develop understanding and address the mental health and stress-related effects of the pandemic on White Mountain Apache people; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there is no treatment for the virus that causes COVID-19 and finding a safe and effective treatment is critical to preventing hospitalization for patients experiencing symptoms from COVID-19 and protecting our community members; and

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WHEREAS, Convalescent plasma has a long history of use for other infections, and in studies conducted to date for treatment of severe COVID-19, it has been shown to be safe and to reduce mortality; and

WHEREAS, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine is conducting two trials to evaluate the use of convalescent plasma for prevention and early treatment of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, this day, requests permission to conduct the convalescent plasma trial in partnership with the Tribe to evaluate the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma to prevent infection among individuals exposed to the virus and to prevent hospitalization among patients with symptomatic COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The convalescent plasma COVID-19 study trial (“Study”) activities will include:

- 1) Enrolling, on a voluntary basis, interested individuals between the ages of 18 and 85 who have tested positive for COVID-19 who have provided informed consent to participate. People who are pregnant or breastfeeding are excluded from participation;
- 2) One plasma transfusion; and
- 3) After the transfusion, participants will be followed either by phone or visit for 90 days post-transfusion. A nasal swab will be collected at follow visits and a blood sample will be collected at five visits. The nasal swabs will be tested for the COVID-19 virus and the blood samples will be tested to measure the level of antibodies. No other testing of specimens, beyond what is specifically stated at the time of enrollment, is allowed. No genetic testing will be done.

WHEREAS, The Council has considered Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health’s request and finds that authorizing the Study will help with the Tribe’s fight against COVID-19 and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes

Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health to conduct the convalescent plasma COVID-19 trial with the White Mountain Apache community to evaluate the safety and efficacy of this treatment and address this worldwide pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **OCTOBER 7, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ONE** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 10.9.2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date

 10/8/2020
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date