



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

## (Approving the Emergency Operations Center's Recommendations Regarding Tribal COVID-19 Reopening Plans)

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**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian 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 [the] constitution..."; and

**WHEREAS,** Since the Tribe's Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") was activated by the Tribe's Emergency Declaration in March, 2020, the Council and the EOC have worked together to implement policies and resolution designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation"); and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribe's "Safer-at-Home" initiative and order provides a phased reopening of the Tribe, within which the Tribe is currently at Phase One, allowing only Emergency Personnel to work in-person at their respective workplaces; and

**WHEREAS,** The Indian Health Service Whiteriver Service Unit has been actively vaccinating Tribal employees, and the number of active cases on the Reservation has been steadily declining; and

**WHEREAS,** The EOC, this day, recommends that the Tribe move into Phase 2 on March 15, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** The Council has reviewed the EOC's recommendation and those of public health experts and the community, and finds that moving into Phase Two of the Tribe's Reopening Plan, effective March 15, 2021 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:

1. Amends the Tribe's Safer-at-Home Order's Movement between Phases provision to read: "Any time positivity rates are at or below 5% in a 2-week average, the Tribe may progress into the next phase of the Phased Reopening Plan, or the EOC may recommend moving forward with the Council's approval";
2. Approves moving forward into Phase 2 on March 15, 2021, should statistics continue to warrant such movement;

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3. Approves the Tribal Reopening Plan, as attached, which will be activated once the Tribe has reached 8,500 unique vaccinations; and
4. Requires all Tribal department directors and supervisors to complete the "Tribal Operations Reopening" document, as attached.

**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 MARCH 3, 2021 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for, ZERO against, and ZERO 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).



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman

5/3/21  
Date



Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

5/3/2021  
Date