



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health to Conduct a Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies Study on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Reservation ("Constitution") 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

WHEREAS, The Tribe, in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University, has conducted research projects for 40 years, which aim to raise the level of health for all residents of the Reservation; 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 to secure funding in order to address the COVID-19 virus within the White Mountain Apache Tribe 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; and
- 3) Develop understanding and address the mental health and stress-related effects of the pandemic on White Mountain Apache people; and

WHEREAS, To understand immunity to COVID-19 in the White Mountain Apache community, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health is requesting authorization to conduct a research study entitled, *Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in Native American Communities*, which will be conducted in partnership with the Indian Health Service and the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, This study will include the following activities:

- 1) Enrolling interested volunteers to participate;
- 2) Two community seroprevalence surveys will be conducted approximately 3 to 6 months apart, with a random sample of 500 individuals and their household members invited to participate at each time point;
- 3) healthcare personnel from the Whiteriver Service Unit will be invited to participate in a longitudinal assessment of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies to help assess how long immunity lasts; and

WHEREAS, The goal of this study is to determine the extent of COVID-19 transmission and immunity in the White Mountain Apache community, as measured by prevalence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed and considered JHCAIH's request and finds that conducting the proposed study is essential to the understanding of transmission and immunity, will better inform decisions about prevention and control strategies as well as community mitigation interventions in the response to COVID-19 for the White Mountain Apache community and other AI/AN communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health to conduct the *Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in Native American Communities* study in partnership with the White Mountain Apache Tribe.


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.


Resolution No. 05-2021-92

The foregoing resolution was on MAY 5, 2021 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT 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).


Gwendena Lee-Gatewood
Tribal Chairwoman

Date

5/7/21


Doreen T Numkena
Tribal Secretary

Date

5-7-2021