



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Publication of Manuscript *Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Interventions in Indigenous Communities During BA.1 Omicron Variant Surge, December 25, 2021–January 31, 2022, Prepared by Indian Health Service Personnel*)

- 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
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe, in conjunction with the Indian Health Service Whiteriver Service Unit (“WRSU”), has worked to raise the level of health of all residents of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”); and
- WHEREAS,** WRSU is requesting the Council’s permission to publish the manuscript entitled: *Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Interventions in Indigenous Communities During BA.1 Omicron Variant Surge, December 25, 2021–January 31, 2022*; and
- WHEREAS,** COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the Reservation community, and an integrated approach was taken integrating hospital and clinic care, outreach, and home health in coordination with Tribal government agencies; and
- WHEREAS,** Despite a higher incidence rate of cases during the BA.1 Omicron surge from December 25, 2021–January 31, 2022, the Tribe and WRSU achieved a lower COVID-19 case fatality rate than the surrounding state of Arizona; and
- WHEREAS,** Monoclonal antibodies (“MAB”) and antiviral therapies are promising treatments for COVID-19 that can prevent progression to severe disease among those infected; and
- WHEREAS,** WRSU initiated ongoing medication utilization review among patients eligible for and received MAB for COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS,** From December 25, 2021 to January 31, 2022, there were 2,168 cases of COVID-19, and 319 persons were infused with Sotrovimab, a type of MAB, among persons eligible for the medications based on approved criteria under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA); and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe and WRSU demonstrated how such an integrated approach using data to drive fluid, real-time decision-making, among a dedicated workforce that understands the local community context can contribute to a decreased case fatality rate; and

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WHEREAS, The manuscript contains no personally-identifiable protected health information; and

WHEREAS, The Council finds that the publication of the manuscript would help build the body of scholarship and understanding of COVID-19 and be in the best interests of the Tribe, its members, and will potentially benefit other tribal and rural communities.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes submission for publication of the manuscript *Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Interventions in Indigenous Communities During BA.1 Omicron Variant Surge, December 25, 2021–January 31, 2022*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests a copy of the publication should it be accepted for publication.

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 Chairman, or in his 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 **SEPTEMBER 14, 2022** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** 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).

	
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman	Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Secretary
9-21-22	9/22/22
Date	Date