



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings as part of Tribe's Reopening Plan; Initiating Phase II, and; Authorizing Resumption of Church Services and Traditional Sunrise Dances)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Constitution") provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council ("Council") shall exercise the power "[t]o represent the tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decision not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution"; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe made an Emergency Declaration on March 12, 2020 in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which activated the Tribe's Emergency Operation Center ("EOC"); and
- WHEREAS,** On August 5, 2020, the Council adopted the COVID-19 Alert System and Phased Reopening Plan (the "Plan") as recommended and presented by the EOC on August 5, 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** The Plan provides for a structured reopening of the Tribe in orderly phases; and
- WHEREAS,** Since initiating Phase I, numbers of new cases on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation") have continued to decline; and
- WHEREAS,** Phase II calls for the resumption of certain outdoor activities and requires adherence to the Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings in Phased Reopening Plan ("Guidelines"), which have been prepared by the EOC (attached and incorporated herein by reference); and
- WHEREAS,** The Council has received correspondence from and on behalf of pastors, ministers and traditional spiritual leaders urging for the resumption of church services and sunrise dances; and
- WHEREAS,** In response to the sustained decline in new cases of COVID-19 on the Reservation, the Council finds that initiating Phase II of the Tribe's Reopening Plan, effective immediately, and approving the Guidelines to be adhered to in this process, is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members; and

Resolution No. 09-2020-213

WHEREAS, The Council also finds that after several months of hardship and illness that the spiritual needs of the community require resumption of church and traditional ceremonies, including traditional massages and sunrise dance ceremonies (“na’ii’ees”).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the attached Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings in Phased Reopening Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby understands and incorporates the attached Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings into Phase II of the Reopening Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that, effective immediately, Phase II of the Tribe’s reopening plan is hereby instituted, including:

- All Tribal Departments and employees are to resume regular full-time work schedules, and to practice social distancing, including staggered work-site schedules, where necessary and approved per department re-opening policies. Services to the general public are to be rendered by appointment only, or by telephone or virtually, whenever possible;
- Drive-up church services are allowed, according to Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings in Phased Reopening Plan;
- Traditional coming-of-age massages are allowed, according to Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings in Phased Reopening Plan;
- Outdoor camping is allowed;
- Non-resident, non-member visitors are allowed onto the Reservation for recreational purposes, including fishing and camping (pursuant to applicable ordinances, codes, and policies) but must strictly adhere to the Tribe’s social distancing guidelines; and
- Curfew is moved to the hours between 10:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that regular church meetings and sunrise dance ceremonies (na’ii’ees”) may also resume, and that all congregants, sponsors and participants must adhere to social distancing protocols and recommendations, as much as possible.

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.

Resolution No. 09-2020-213

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 **SEPTEMBER 3, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **TEN** for, **ONE** 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).

 9/9/2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date

 9-9-2020
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date

White Mountain Apache Tribe
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Emergency Operations Center

Pandemic Response

Policy Title: Outdoor Gatherings in Phased Reopening Plan

Policy Date: 08/31/2020

POLICY STATEMENT

- The White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") made an Emergency Declaration on March 12, 2020 in response to the worldwide Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic. This declaration activated the Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") whose main priorities regarding this pandemic are the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19 on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation"). The Tribe has implemented a phased reopening plan with the health and safety of our community at forefront. The following policy shall govern all matters concerning Outdoor Gatherings which are proposed to be permitted during Phase Two.

Policy Guidelines

1. Outdoor Gatherings require all people from the same vehicle to remain in their vehicles.
2. Vehicles may not park close to each other.
3. Each person in attendance must wear a mask.
4. These events shall be conducted in a way that prevents person-to-person contact, and social distancing must be observed.
5. So long as it remains in place, the Tribe's curfew must be observed.

Organizers must also:

1. Limit the number of people in their restroom facilities;
2. Provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer dispensers; and
3. Regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces.