



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Whiteriver Service Unit to Conduct Proposed Retrospective Chart Review to Assess Characteristics and Outcomes of Patients Hospitalized for COVID-19)

- 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 (“IHS”), has worked to raise the level of health of all residents of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”); and
- WHEREAS,** The Council supports the continued progress and positive outcomes from clinical activities, disease surveillance, and research projects by IHS that have contributed to medical science and the development of preventions and interventions which seek to decrease or alleviate certain health problems endemic to Reservation residents; and
- WHEREAS,** Native Americans, including members of the Tribe, have experienced some of the highest rates of infection of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for novel coronavirus 2019, COVID-19, in the world; and
- WHEREAS,** Native Americans have experienced disparately high rates of severe COVID-19 cases, including hospitalizations and deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe has experienced lower than expected case fatality rates secondary to COVID-19, the reasons for which are both unclear and in spite of elevated incidence rates and hospitalization rates in the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** To date, Native Americans remain under-represented in COVID-19 hospitalization datasets, making it difficult to understand predictive variables in this vulnerable population; and
- WHEREAS,** A thorough review of hospitalized COVID-19 cases among Tribal members may illuminate aspects of the COVID response that may be of benefit to other Tribes and rural hospitals as well as inform what to improve in our local response; and
- WHEREAS,** The proposed study will collect de-identified information and report metrics only in aggregate in order to protect patient and Tribal member personal health information; and

WHEREAS, The Whiteriver Service Unit of the Indian Health Service, this day, proposes to the Council that it be authorized to complete a retrospective chart review of all Tribal members hospitalized due to COVID-19 from April 1 to July 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Council finds authorizing the proposed study will improve local and collective understanding of risk factors for hospitalization from COVID-19 and severe respiratory syndromes among Native Americans, including members of the WMAT.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the Whiteriver Service Unit to conduct the proposed study, as described herein, with data and findings to be presented and explained to the Tribal Council.

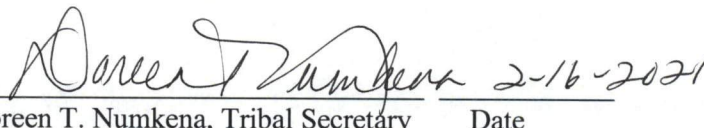
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the approval of the Council shall be obtained before any of the data from the proposed study may be published in any medical journal.

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 **FEBRUARY 10, 2021** duly adopted by a vote of **FIVE** for, **THREE** 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).

 2.16.21  2-16-2021
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date