February 16, 2021

Dear Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Members,

On behalf of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Council, I hope that you are having a good and safe new year. While 2020 presented its share of unique obstacles, I am proud of the way that we as a Nation have handled the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to the day that we can officially say that COVID-19 is a thing of the past.

While I encourage you all to consider taking advantage of the free COVID-19 vaccination that is available to you, it is important to remember that we are not out of the woods yet. We must continue to take precautions as we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As you know, on August 11, 2020, the Tribal Council terminated the Temporary Shelter-In-Place Order pursuant to Resolution 2020-86. However, please be advised that certain restrictions, including the following, remain in place until further notice:

1. The Nation’s road closures.
2. Unless for approved traditional practices described below, the Verde River and other bodies of water on the Nation are closed to the public except to enrolled Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation tribal members.
3. Sunrise dances and other cultural practices will now be allowed after a written submission has been provided to Tribal Council via Tribal Council Secretary and Tribal Council Secretary has received written acknowledgement that the Nation’s COVID-19 safety protocols have been received. Tribal Council Secretary will provide the safety protocols upon receiving the written submission.
4. Cultural sweats will be allowed subject to social distancing guidelines and shall not exceed six (6) persons. Only tribal and community members are allowed to participate.
5. Vendor lots are closed.
6. Only tribal and community members are allowed to conduct food sales (e.g., personal, fundraisers, door-to-door, in-home, churches and by social media). All food sales must follow U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and tribal health and safety laws and regulations (e.g., food handler’s permit).
7. In-person church gatherings, board and committee meetings may be held but must be restricted to 25 people or less.

Please continue to practice social distancing and good personal hygiene, wear a mask or facial covering in public, and limit travel to areas with high incidence of COVID-19 positive cases.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Government General Manager Phil Dorchester at (480) 266-4616 or at pdorchester@fmyn.org.

Sincerely,

Bernadine Burnette
President, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

cc: FMYN Tribal Council
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