June 8, 2020

Dear Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Members:

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Council understands your concerns related to COVID-19. The Nation continues to closely monitor COVID-19 and are taking necessary steps to protect tribal members, community members, employees and visitors.

With the increase number of positive COVID-19 cases on the Nation, there have been questions whether the name of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 can be disclosed to tribal members and the public. Due to the federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPPAA), which the Nation and Wassaja Memorial Health Center (Health Center) must comply with, the names and other information related to a patient’s medical record are protected from public disclosure without the patient's consent or knowledge. However, this federal law allows the Nation and Health Center to provide general information to tribal members and the public about the number of positive COVID-19 cases, which we have done and will continue to do so.

As to the most recent COVID-19 incident on the Nation, please know that the Health Center, along with Fire Department, Police Department, Human Resources and General Manager’s Office, followed up by reaching out to tribal and community members who may have had contact or exposure to the initial positive case individual. These people have been tested for COVID-19. All persons who have been tested in this incident have been instructed as to what measures need to be taken in order to prevent further spread to the Nation and community. These guidelines provided by the Health Center are based on U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. These include isolation and quarantine protocols.

We can all do our part to control the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to maintain precautions of social distancing, good personal hygiene, and wearing a mask or facial covering.

If you have any questions, please contact John Fedyna, Acting Wassaja Memorial Clinic Director, at 480-789-7890 or (480) 526-2586.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Bernadine Burnette, President
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

CC: Tribal Council
    Diandra Benally, Office of General Counsel
    John Fedyna, Acting Wassaja Memorial Clinic Director
    Mona Jones, Enterprise Human Resources Director,
    Thomas Gonzales, Acting Chief of Police
    Mark Openshaw, Fire Chief