Fort McDowell Traditional Ceremony
Safety & Health Procedures

The following guidelines are set forth in order to aid in the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19 during traditional ceremonies within the boundaries of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. The forthcoming ceremonies will be conducted outside in the open air. These policies are effective as of February 16, 2021, and will remain in effect until December 31, 2021, unless otherwise extended, amended, or repealed by Tribal Council.

➤ All participants will:
  - Social Distance at least 6ft if not of the same household
  - Correctly wear an approved face covering at all times (except when eating or drinking)
  - Stay home if sick
  - Not be in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19 as directed by their healthcare provider
  - Avoid gathering in clusters of four or more persons

➤ Sponsors and Co-Sponsors should:
  - Provide handwashing stations or hand sanitizers
  - Provide approved face coverings

➤ General Etiquette:
  - No contact allowed including hand shaking and hugging
  - No arm locking while dancing allowed unless dancing with somebody from the same household
  - Sanitizers provided before and after pollen/prayer line
  - Tobacco man must wear gloves to hand out items (cigarettes/gum) from basket instead of individuals reaching into the basket
  - Bring your own drinks
  - No sharing of drinks
  - No more than 100 people per camp.
  - Components of the ceremony open to the public will be done in an open environment to allow for maximum air circulation and will not exceed 150 persons at the center ceremony. Parked vehicles are allowed. People in cars are excluded from this number.
  - No vending of any kind at the dance grounds or camps
  - Goods of food and candies handed out to children: no more than five children on each side shall be present at a time.
- Goods of food and candies during the ceremony shall otherwise be handed out by a designated person(s) wearing gloves. In all instances, the goods must be in zip lock bags.

- Singing Etiquette:
  - Should be able to show a negative test for singers and dancers
  - Limit singers if and where possible
  - Social distancing should be observed
  - It is recommended that singers get tested by means of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing.

- Kitchen Etiquette
  - Only the immediate family members and/or other trusted relatives of the sponsor and co-sponsor should be allowed to prepare, cook, and handle meals
  - No buffet style of serving food
  - Food should be served in individual food boxes

- Camp Etiquette:
  - The number of campers at all family camps should be limited to no more than 100 people per camp.

- Sweat Lodge Etiquette:
  - The number of people in a sweat lodge should not to exceed 25 people.
  - Avoid sharing items
  - Each person should bring their own drink
  - Each person should bring their own supplies if possible
  - Participants of sweats should consider being tested by PCR testing.
  - Build a larger sweat lodge that allows for social distancing of 6 ft.
  - A list of names of everyone at the sweat should be maintained and provided to health officials when requested
  - Any food delivered to participants should also be in individual food boxes or to go plates

- Other things to consider:
  - Sponsors and Co-sponsors should provide education to all participants about safety guidelines
  - Letter from Tribal Council reinforcing people to stay home if sick or think they have possibly been exposed.
  - Post old yellow COVID signs at the dance grounds
  - Port-a-potties will available for sponsor/co-sponsor and the public
  - During any food exchange, no cooked food may be exchanged.
  - Possible checkpoint at each entrance to check temperatures and ask questions if anyone has been exposed or is sick.
- Blessing lines should be limited to 12 people at a time and shall follow social distancing guidelines
- Must identify a person for each camp to uphold protocols in the camps
- A plan should be created in the event anybody gets sick
- Ceremonies should start as early as possible to avoid large gatherings
- A map of the area(s) should be submitted to the COVID Task Force for the ceremony.

All current guidelines and restrictions must always be observed including the wearing of face masks, social distancing, hand washing or hand sanitizer, covering coughs/sneezes, and encouraging individuals who feel sick to stay home and seek medical attention.

Bernadine Burnette, President
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

February 16, 2021