Resolution No. 206-2021

Fort Belknap Indian Community

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FBIC INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM’S RECOMMENDATION TO PROCEED TO PHASE III OF THE REOPENING PLAN FOR THE FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY, EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 AT 12:00 A.M. UNTIL January 3rd, 2022 AT 11:59 PM

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is the governing body of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Tribes approved on the 13 day of December 1935, and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security and general welfare of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, and

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council and FBIC Health Officials have been constantly monitoring and trying to control the spread and effects of COVID-19 pandemic within the Fort Belknap Indian Community; and,

WHEREAS, through the tireless efforts of the FBIC health officials and workers, the FBIC Incident Command Team and the FBIC Council, the FBIC has lessened the amount of COVID-19 and its Delta variant cases within the FBIC Community to allow us to continue to towards full reopening of the FBIC; and,

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council delegated the authority to the FBIC Incident Command Team to make decisions regarding the prevention of and response to the Covid-19 coronavirus and its variants as delineated in FBIC Resolution No. 81-2021; and,

WHEREAS, the FBIC Incident Command Team has recommended that the FBIC Council determine that the current Phase II-B reopening plan should be elevated to Phase III as delineated in Attachment A.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the FBIC Council hereby retroactively approves the elevation to PHASE III REOPENING for the Fort Belknap Indian Community to commences Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 12:00 am to be effective until Monday, January 3rd, 2022, at 11:59pm in accordance with the restrictions as outlined in Attachment A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FBIC Council acknowledges and is thankful for the continued awareness, active participation and cooperation by members and residents of the Fort Belknap Indian Community in fighting the COVID-19 coronavirus and its variant.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Phase III Re-opening Plan shall include:

1. Travel restrictions remain in place including avoiding areas that have been determined to be “hotspots” and those that have not been vaccinated are encouraged to self-quarantine upon their return and the FBIC work force returning to offices at a 75% occupancy requirement as delineated in the attached Schedule A.
2. Curfew restrictions are lifted.
3. Wearing masks, social distancing, self-quarantine is still strongly encouraged, and residents are urged to be mindful of infection rates of areas where they are traveling to.
4. Those who are not vaccinated are encouraged to test prior to and upon returning to The FBIC, and to self-quarantine.
5. Businesses within the FBIC shall return to normal business hours; mask mandates remain in place except when eating or drinking at designated areas. Casino is allowed to reopen at its normal business hours.
6. Work policies are as determined in the Phase III reopening plan and at the discretion of the FBIC CAO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Plan may be modified as the FBIC Incident Command Team continue to monitor the Covid-19 Pandemic and its variants, including the most recent OMICRON variant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FBIC Incident Command Team shall update the FBIC in two weeks as to the status of the pandemic within the FBIC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FBIC Council STRONGLY URGES those individuals that are not vaccinated, get vaccinated, including any children that are within the age limits to receive a vaccination to protect our people.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council Officers are hereby delegated the authority and responsibility to sign all documents necessary to effect this action.

ATTEST:

[Signatures]

Jeffrey Stiffarm, President
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

Robert Bearcub, Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, do hereby certify that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is composed of ten (10) members, of whom 7 members, constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 3rd day of December, 2021; and that the foregoing Resolution of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council was duly adopted and approved by the affirmative vote of 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting; 0 temporary absent; 3 absent; and that the said Resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

DATE: 12/3/2021

Robert Bearcub, Secretary/Treasurer
FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY
COVID-19 REOPENING PLAN

This plan is to provide an orderly process to lift covid-19 restrictions in an orderly and safe manner. The lifting of restrictions will be done in phases, based upon information regarding active cases. Should cases rise, the phase-in process will be closely monitored and adjusted as needed. Although the state of Montana has lessened many restrictions, this plan follows restrictions imposed by the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council.

1. PHASE 3

Phase 3 of the reopening plan will allow for offices and businesses to remain at 75 percent of office capacity or patronage. Those who have been functioning at 100 percent may continue to do so. Advancement to phase 3 will depend on the stability of the current active numbers for 1 month with no changes past a 60% influx of active cases and/or increase in immunized persons to approximately 75 percent of those eligible within the community. Recommendation is for Phase 3 to expire January 1, 2022; this will allow children aged 5-11 who have already received one COVID-19 vaccine to complete the series and mount the proper immune response.

A. Tribal Programs

i. Tribal Programs will function at 75 percent of their total employee staffing except for essential programs that have been functioning at full capacity (i.e. Public Health Nursing, Law Enforcement, Social Services)

1. Program managers will need to determine employees necessary to start providing in-person services at 75 percent of total staffing

   a. Staffing may be greater than 75 percent depending on number of total staff and ability to social distance in the office (ex. If an office has a total of three staff members that belong to a certain office all three may return to the office given that there is adequate space for social distancing to occur)

2. A Hybrid model offering alternate in-office workdays and “at home” workdays may be acceptable based on the 75 percent of total staffing recommendation

ii. Offices will need to keep their public access limited to accommodate the 75 percent building capacity; plastic barriers are encouraged as needed; appointments may be necessary in order to control influx of the public
iii. Masks will continue to be required by both employees and the public while indoors (this must be strictly enforced, no service if no mask)

iv. Continue with screenings at entrances if possible

B. Businesses

i. Businesses such as restaurants and casinos will be able to operate at 75 percent of total capacity (employee + patrons)

ii. Social distancing will still need to be utilized to ensure 75 percent of building capacity; plastic barriers are encouraged as needed

iii. Restaurants will require masks except when patrons are eating and/or drinking

iv. Casinos will require masks except when eating or drinking, continue adherence to smoking ban. Strict sanitation/disinfection of high touch surface areas

1. Deep cleaning will be at the cost of the businesses and will be required as routine and in cases of positive COVID-19 exposure

2. Refreshments are now allowed

v. Businesses must ensure they have a proper functioning ventilation system

vi. All employees and local businesses will follow current COVID-19 testing, quarantine and isolation protocols or as required by the local Public Health Authority

vii. Businesses may be subject to spontaneous inspection by DES staff to assure COVID-19 guidelines are being properly followed.

C. Travel

i. Travel restrictions will be based on the Resolutions passed by the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council and will NOT be based on other local or state travel mandates (this includes Governor, Mayors, Commissioners and local Boards)

ii. Travel to other states from Montana will be acceptable as long as the state being traveled to is not considered a hotspot. A hotspot will be defined based on the following:

1. Counties defined as hotspot counties must meet one of the four of the following criteria, relative to the date assessed: 1) >100 new COVID-19 cases in the most recent 7 days, 2) an increase in the most recent 7-day COVID-19 incidence over the preceding 7-day incidence, 3) a decrease of <60% or an increase in the most recent 3-day COVID-19 incidence over the preceding 3-day incidence, and 4) the ratio of 7-day incidence/30-day incidence exceeds 0.31. In addition, hotspots must meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) >60% change in the most recent 3-day COVID-19 incidence, or 2) >60% change in the most recent 7-day incidence.

2. All safety measures should continue to be adhered to during travel, this includes: mask wearing and use of hand sanitizer or proper handwashing

3. Medical appointments will continue to be allowable with all safety measure being observed
iii. Out of Country travel will be allowed provided the Country is open to foreigners and is not a hot spot.

iv. Travel for Fully Vaccinated versus Unvaccinated persons:

1. Domestic/International Travel Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People:
   a. Fully vaccinated travelers do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination requires it.
   b. Fully vaccinated travelers do not need to self-quarantine; they should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
   c. Fully vaccinated individuals should get tested 3-5 days after international travel.
      i. Follow all requirements for International travel; pay close attention to the situation at your international destination before traveling.
   d. Fully vaccinated travelers should still follow CDC’s recommendations for traveling safely including:
      i. Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when using public transportation and while indoors at U.S transportation hubs such as airports or stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask when in outdoor areas.
      ii. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer.

2. Unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated people are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or complete the vaccine series if able; travel is NOT recommended, however, if they engage in Domestic Travel please follow these recommendations:
   a. Before you travel:
      i. Get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before your trip.
   b. While you are traveling:
      i. Wear a mask over your nose and mouth. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas (open decks or uncovered top deck of a bus).
      ii. Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you.
      iii. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
   c. After you travel:
      i. Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 10-14 days after travel.
ii. Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 10-14 days.

iii. If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.

iv. If you don’t get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10-14 days after travel.

v. Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 10-14 days, whether you get tested or not.

vi. Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

d. Follow local recommendations or requirements.

D. Transportation

i. Local Fort Belknap Transportation buses will be allowed to start operation at 75 percent of total capacity following mask requirements below; Northcentral transit will continue to operate on the Reservation following their own safety measures

ii. Masks will be required at all times for those 3 years of age and older; absolutely no drinks or food items will be allowed while riding the transit (exceptions are babies and toddlers)

E. Activities

i. Nonessential activities will need to have a safety plan submitted to DES at least 5 days in advance to allow for comments, revision and approval or denial. Nonessential activities will include, but is not limited to, the following:
   1. Traditional or Social Feeds
   2. Rummage sales
   3. Social events such as rodeo, basketball games, school activities
   4. Pow-wows

ii. Essential activities will be allowed without approval from DES. Examples may include but are not limited to:
   1. Summer food program
   2. Fish and Wildlife
   3. Construction projections and other infrastructure
   4. Social Services
   5. Funerals

F. Schools

i. Schools are open following currently CDC recommendations for in-person learning

ii. Vaccinating those who are eligible is strongly encouraged to reduce the risk of illness and transmission of COVID-19 within the school systems
G. Visitors
   i. Out of country visitors will be allowed provided they are allowed into the Country; In and out of state visitors may be allowed provided they do not come from a state that can be defined as a Hot Spot and/or they are fully vaccinated

H. Gyms/Community Centers
   i. Gyms may now start functioning at 75 percent of total capacity. Face masks will need to be worn by ALL patrons at ALL TIMES including while working out. Safety plan for reopening will need to be submitted to DES.
   ii. Community Centers will be allowed to open at 75 percent of capacity; social distancing measures if possible will be strongly encouraged. Mask wearing will continue to be required unless users of the facility can GUARANTEE ALL who attend are FULLY vaccinated.

I. Curfew
   i. Curfew will continue to be lifted minus what is currently in place for youth

J. Quarantine and isolation for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals
   i. Fully Vaccinated Persons
      1. If you’ve been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others however you should:
         a. Wear a mask indoors in public 14 days after last exposure or until a negative test result
         b. Get tested 5-7 days after close contact with someone suspected or confirmed COVID-19
      2. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 you should get tested and stay home and isolate away from others
      3. If you have a weakened immune system please talk to your healthcare provider to discuss your activities as you may need to continue taking all precautions to prevent COVID-19
   ii. Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated persons (Partially vaccinated persons are those who have received only one dose of the two part Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 immunization series)
      1. If you have been around someone who has COVID-19 or you have travelled out of state, you will need to continue to follow the 14 day quarantine instructions
      2. If you are symptomatic and/or test positive for COVID-19 you will need to follow isolation instructions

K. Mask wearing
   i. Masks will continue to be recommended for both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons while:
1. **Traveling**
2. **Using public transportation**
3. **Going to the doctor’s office (unless otherwise specified) or other Tribal Program Offices**
4. **Attending a crowded, indoor/outdoor event where vaccination status of attendees is unknown**
5. **Exercising indoors when vaccination status of participants is unknown**
6. **Indoor public places**
   
i. Fully vaccinated persons may relax the mask mandate when:
   1. **Attending a small indoor gathering of vaccinated persons**
   2. **Dining outdoors**
   3. **Exercising outdoors**
   4. **Exercising indoors assuming ALL participants have been vaccinated**
   5. **Attending a small worship service**
   6. **Going to an uncrowded indoor shopping center or museum**
   
ii. Unvaccinated or only Partially Vaccinated persons ( Partially vaccinated persons are those who have received only one dose of the two part Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 immunization series) will be strongly encouraged to wear masks in all situations except the following:
   1. **Walking, running or biking outdoors with member of your own household**
   2. **Attending a small, outdoor gathering with FULLY vaccinated family and friends (ten or less)**

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Due to the wide availability of COVID-19 vaccines for those aged **5 years and older**, the Incident Command team STRONGLY recommends those who are eligible to get vaccinated unless they have been otherwise instructed by a healthcare provider not to do so.

**If you have already received the COVID-19 vaccine series, booster is now recommended for those 18 year of age and older.** Research has shown that the vaccine is both Safe and Effective against the development of SEVERE COVID INFECTION! Please Vaccinate!

**There is a new variant called the Omicron Variant, while this will not affect the advancement of moving forward to Phase III, the DES team will be following this variant closely and make recommendations as necessary.**