

Oneida Nation

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Oneida, WI 54155

BC Resolution # 08-03-21-A

Setting Public Gathering Guidelines During Public Health State of Emergency - COVID-19

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** the world has been rocked by the COVID-19 pandemic for the sixteen or more months; and
- WHEREAS,** since the declaration of the pandemic by the United States and the Oneida Business Committee, public health protocols (social distancing, masking, and handwashing) and vaccines have been developed which have been authorized to be given to individuals 12 and older; and
- WHEREAS,** federal and federal governments have utilized all available resources to encourage citizens to become vaccinated, and the Oneida Business Committee has approved utilization of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding for vaccine incentives for both members and employees; and
- WHEREAS,** despite these efforts, COVID-19 has 'spawned' variants that are more easily transmitted (such as the current Delta variant) and vaccination rates still remain below the necessary levels to slow the spread of COVID-19 (on July 28th, Wisconsin, and specifically Brown and Outagamie Counties is at 49% fully vaccinated); and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has reviewed Center for Disease Control information and guidance, State of Wisconsin information and guidance, and Public Health Officer information and recommendations; and
- WHEREAS,** the information identifies that across the United States COVID-19 and its variants have once again increased to dangerous levels, that within Wisconsin an increase within a one week period has resulted in most of the state moving from medium to high levels of infection; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee believes that a 'return-to-normal' is needed and includes safely scheduling General Tribal Council meetings as well as public events such as the Oneida Nation Pow Wow and Applefest that have the potential to become super spreader events if not carefully managed to protect the health and safety of all individuals attending; and

WHEREAS, the increase in infection rates of the COVID-19 virus which in turns gives an opportunity to create additional variants that could be more deadly than the Delta variant currently making an increased impact; and

WHEREAS, the change from medium to high across the State of Wisconsin, the identification that vaccination rates are only at 49%, Native Americans at 32% (Oneida Nation membership and employee vaccination rates should be available in late August); and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee believes that it is important to clearly set goals of minimum infection rates and vaccination rates so members and the community can have clear indicators of when meetings, events, and activities could be canceled;

Identifying Infection Rates

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oneida Business Committee directs that indoor and outdoor events shall be canceled when the infection rates within Brown or Outagamie Counties exceed "Low" as identified by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>).

Vaccination Rates

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, when vaccination levels of Oneida's members and Oneida Nation employees reaches 75%, the safety of public health will be considered to be effectively managed, and the Oneida Business Committee shall review whether a need for a declaration of a state of public health emergency continues to exist.

Individual, Business, and Indoor/Outdoor Activities Guidance

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as this pandemic proceeds, individuals, business, and event coordinators should follow the guidance set by the Centers for Disease Control as revised to meet changing pandemic impacts.

Staying Safer at Home and Safer Re-Opening of Government Offices

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, resolution # BC-05-12-21-B, *Staying Safer At Home Policy – COVID-19 Pandemic*, and resolution # BC-05-12-21-I, *Safer Re-Opening of Government Offices – COVID-19 Pandemic*, are rescinded immediately upon adoption of this resolution.

Conclusion of Resolution Directives

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, this resolution shall remain in place so long as the declaration of a public health emergency remains in place.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum; 7 members participated in an electronic vote (e-poll) which closed on the 3rd day of August, 2021; that the forgoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of 6 members for, 0 members against, and 1 members not voting*; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. The results of the e-poll will be entered into the record at the next regular Oneida Business Committee scheduled on August 11, 2021.




Lisa Liggins, Secretary
Oneida Business Committee

*According to the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, the Chair votes "only in the case of a tie."



Memorandum

To: BC Direct Reports
Elected/Appointed Entities

From: Lisa Liggins, Secretary 

CC: Business Committee

Date: August 4, 2021

Re: BC Resolution # 08-03-21-A – Setting Public Gathering Guidelines During Public Health State of Emergency - COVID-19

Background

The Oneida Business Committee has adopted resolution # BC-08-03-21-A, Setting Public Gathering Guidelines During Public Health State of Emergency. Over the last 16 months the Oneida Business Committee has taken action by adopting policies intended to protect the members, employees and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, we have listened to reports from the Public Health Officer, Comprehensive Health, reviewed reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control on best practices, and carefully watched how the vaccine is impacting the infection rates.

We have adopted this resolution to set clear measures for members and the organization to anticipate how the Oneida Nation will be moving forward. There are three (3) measures in the resolution:

1. Indoor and outdoor events are canceled when the infection rates in Brown and Outagamie Counties exceed “low” as identified by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
2. When vaccination rates for Oneida members and employees reach 75%, we will review the need to continue extending the declaration of public health state of emergency.
3. Business and operations should follow the CDC guidelines for best practices in keeping employees, clients and the public safe.

Note: the Staying Safer at Home Policy and the Safer Re-Opening of Government Offices Policy have been repealed. However, all entities need keep their personnel and guests informed regarding best practices for health safety as identified by the CDC.

Requested Action

Please inform your personnel of this resolution and the measures that have been put in place.

You may contact any of the BC Members or Danelle Wilson, Executive Assistant, at 920-869-4389 or dwilson1@oneidnation.org with any questions.