



## Weekly COVID-19 Update from the CEO

June 25, 2021

As Washington state prepares to reopen, new cases continue to spread among the unvaccinated population. Most recently, an outbreak in a local church group infected many people, several of whom have ended up in our local hospitals, adding increased pressure on limited ICU capacity. Hospitalization is now largely preventable as the vaccine is incredibly effective against the most serious COVID cases including the variants.

Vaccinations will continue to be available anyone who decides they are ready to get immunized against the virus. If you are in Washington state, call 1-800 VAX-HELP for information on where shots are available.

As the Governor's June 30<sup>th</sup> reopening date approaches, here is some basic information on what to expect:

- Unvaccinated people should continue wearing masks indoors (for their own safety and the safety of others).
- Restaurants, bars, grocery stores and other establishments are going to be fully open with no capacity or occupancy limits (exceptions may apply to large indoor events like sports, concerts, and conventions with 10,000 or more people).
- Tribes, counties, and businesses can enforce stricter safety measures as needed - "Respect the Rules of the Room you're in."

Due to the availability of COVID vaccinations, the COVID Sick Leave at Jamestown that has been in place for the past year will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Beginning July 1, 2021, benefited employees will need to use their accruals if required to stay home due to a COVID related quarantine or illness.

I have been writing these updates since March of 2020. Unless circumstances change significantly, this will be my last weekly update. I am looking forward to enjoying this summer and our return to normalcy. Remember to stay vigilant as the virus continues to circulate and seriously consider getting vaccinated if you have not already!

The rest of Tribal Council and I want to express our deepest appreciation to all the Health Care Heroes and everyone else who came together to help our community in a time of need.

Be safe and stay cool during this heat wave.

W. Ron Allen, Council Chair/CEO