

# Oneida Nation

Post Office Box 365

Phone: (920)869-2214



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 approve 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 State 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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."