



The Village Crier

April 26, 2021

Volume 2, Issue No. 8

Hopi Councilman Wallace Youvella Sr. Succumbs to Injuries from Auto Accident

By: Louella N. Furcap
the Village Crier

The First Mesa Consolidated Villages were saddened to hear of the tragic accident and the passing of Hopi Councilman Wallace Youvella, Sr., on April 20.

Youvella, Sr. and son Wallace Youvella, Jr. (also a Councilman), were enroute to a meeting in Phoenix on April 8, to join other Hopi Councilors and business consultants to discuss potential economic development projects for the Hopi Tribe, when they were struck by an oncoming vehicle.

Youvella, Jr. sustained multiple, non-life threatening injuries and was released from the hospital a day later. Sr. who had more serious internal injuries remained hospitalized in Scottsdale up until the time of his death.

“Wally Sr. and Jr. have been valued friends and colleagues of mine for many years,” said Administrator Ivan L. Sidney. “My friendship with Wally, Sr. goes way back to our childhood days up to the present. This unfortunate accident, which was clearly not their

fault, has impacted us in many ways.”

“Wally was appointed and certified by the Kikmongwi (Village Chief) to represent the First Mesa Consolidated Villages on the Hopi Tribal Council,” added Sidney. “As legislators, they uphold their duties and commitment to their constituency and the Hopi government 24 hours a day. We pray for strength and healing of the family as they deal with the loss of their father, grandfather, brother and uncle.”



Wallace Youvella, Sr., Hopi Tribal Council, representing the First Mesa Consolidated Villages

Kikmongwi James Te-wayguna visited the FMCV office and (in Hopi) said, “He has been a public servant for a long time. He has done a lot for the people and the Hopi Tribe. Many will benefit from his work and remember him long after he is gone.”

Kikmongwi told the staff to remain humble and

work with diligence for the benefit of everyone and encouraged the staff to honor Youvella’s life.

“I consider all people my children,” said Kikmongwi. “Each night after everyone has gone to sleep, I pray for the safety and well being of everyone. I care about each one of you and want you all to be safe and healthy.”

Village Church Presents Love Gift



Pastor Dae Jun Park presents check to FMCV Administrator Ivan Sidney

By: Louella N. Furcap, the Village Crier

As a part of their faith, Faith and Love (1 Corinthians 13:13), “Pastor His (God’s) commands,” the First Mesa Baptist Church worshipers tithed a special offering during Easter to be used as a love gift blessing to an organization in First Mesa.

In the spirit of Hope,

the church board agreed to give the Love Offering to the First Mesa Consolidated Village (FMCV) administration office,” said Church Moderator Romancita Adams.

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Village of Walpi engages in Clean-Up Day



Walpi Villagers and Office staff pose for a picture in their well earned t-shirts

By: Louella Furcap, the Village Crier

Despite a cool, very windy morning, the Village of Walpi and members of the Village, engaged in a road clean-up day in commemoration of Earth Day.

Remembering their responsibilities as stewards of the earth, The group started at 8am picking up trash, litter and debris along the highway, leading them to their destination outside the Village office where they were treated to a lunch of grilled hamburgers and re-

warded with a special designed T-shirt. Hopi teachings tell us that we are stewards and caretakers of mother earth; similar to Christian teachings that humans are stewards in charge of its care and have a responsibility to cultivate, guard it and use it wisely. This is called stewardship.

Several Flute Clan members (kikyam) were amongst the clean up crew. Wise Stewardship!!

Kwiyamuyaw (April)

Windbreaker
Moon

This Month in Hopi History

- **1834:** Rocky Mountain Fur Company trappers killed 15-20 Hopis
- **1837:** Massive Navajo attack on Orayvi Village
- **1862-1863:** Three Hopis travelled to Salt Lake City to appeal for aid against Navajos
- **1891:** Orayvi Warriors declared war on the U.S. Calvary

Publication Dates:

April 12 and 26, 2021.
All article submissions are due by 5pm Wednesday before publication and can be send to:
Lnahsonhoya@gmail

Contact Information

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Polacca, AZ 86042
928-737-2670
firstmesaconsolidatedvillages.com

Update on First Mesa Village Projects

FIRST MESA CONSOLIDATED VILLAGES

By: Ivan L. Sidney
First Mesa Consolidated Villages Administrator

The following are updates on Projects in our village during the upcoming months:

1. Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP): After waiting since 2011, this project is finally in full operation with funding provided mostly by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Project is under the grant oversight of the Hopi Utility Corporation (HUC). Director Tim Bodell, has made significant strides in this Project.

The First Mesa Consolidated Villages (FMCV) Traditional Leadership provided the required approvals for rights-of-ways and Environmental Clearances early in the beginning of the Project. Three wells were drilled in the Hardrock range area (north of Polacca) to provide the water source for First and Second Mesa Villages.

Funding by the Bureau of Indian Affairs will provide HAMP water to be extended to Keams Canyon. Again, our Leadership approved the required documents to extend the pipeline to Keams Canyon. Keams Canyon is currently served by the Low Mountain Wells which has very high levels of arsenic and was cited by EPA years ago. The Low Mountain wells have an arsenic treatment plant which will no longer be in operation upon completion of HAMP. In fact, all the wells in First Mesa will be sealed off according to the EPA laws.

This week, we witnessed water pipes being delivered to the West Polacca area to be used to start the construction of the water lines north to the well fields. Two large water storage tanks will be constructed next to our present west storage tank. The current construction schedule is slated to be completed within a year, or sooner. It has been a long, hard struggle for the reality of the Project; but now that it has started, that is now in the past.

FMCV had to submit a Compliance Agreement in 2015 to be approved by the EPA due to the high arsenic levels in our water wells. This Agreement justified how and when the village water system, would be replaced with the completion of HAMP. Also, considering the opposition by Users of our current water, EPA approved the Agreement with the following stipulations: Quarterly Water Test samples (very costly), Quarterly Compliance Reports and Quarterly Public Notices to consumers. (See Public Notice on Page 4). All documents are available for public inspection.

2. The First Mesa Meter Project: Construction is currently scheduled for a bid opening and soon after the Bid Opening, construction will be awarded and installation of the water meters will start.

Water customers will be billed according to water usage, similar to APS billings. The meters will be read electronically each month. Customers are advised to practice conservation.

The water will be treated at the well site by the HUC and delivered to the First Mesa storage tanks. First Mesa will pay HUC for gallons of water into the tank. Customers will be billed for the cost of the water distribution. The per gallon cost will be determined by the Utility Corporation.

Into the future, the FMCV Administration is recommending that our Traditional Leaders turn our village owned water system over to the Hopi Utility Corporation.

It has been a struggle all these years to maintain the operations with no tribal revenues to supplement the cost of operations. Cost to operate a water system is extremely costly. Water bills will be higher, but will not have the high levels of arsenic in the water, which we all want.

3. Conditions of our present Sewer Lagoon: HUC is currently assisting FMCV on improving our sewer lagoons. At the beginning of the construction of our water system, the project had budgetary short falls and the sewer lagoon was not constructed according to construction plans. A deep sewer line had to be constructed during the project in the center area of First Mesa to allow for gravity flow. This change order was very costly and eliminated some of the critical needs which we are now experiencing. The engineering was done by the Indian Health Service and inspectors for the project was also by Indian Health Service.

HUC retained the services of a consulting agency who last week accompanied our Water Operations Supervisor Alphonso Sakeva, Jr to review the lagoon conditions. Annually, especially during the summer months, we receive complaints from home owners about sewer odors. The lagoon must have air raiders powered by electricity to treat and control the sewer water and the vegetation must be cleared to allow for proper ventilation.

The protection fence must be repaired to keep persons out of the lagoon. There has been considerable vandalism and the raw waste water is hazardous to a person's health.

Currently, there is no charge to water users for sewage treatment like other water services. The Hopi Health Care Center, Walpi Housing and the Hopi Dialysis Center all use our lagoon by the use of a lift station. It would be to the best interest of our village water system to construct a new lagoon. Lagoons at Low Mountain Junction and behind the First Mesa Village are needed to allow the homes to eliminate septic tanks.

4. Finally, the Design to pave the west road, that goes behind First Mesa, has been completed: The road rights-of-way and EA clearances were approved by our leaders years ago. This project has been on hold waiting on construction funds. Our Office was notified that it is possible this project could now be scheduled for construction. This dirt road is impassable during rainy and snowy weather.

We extend our appreciation to Representative Wallace Youvella Jr. who is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Hopi Transportation Committee. His determined representation to advocate for the needs of the village is resulting in the possible construction of a paved road.

This transportation project will also, now include the Polacca Airport. An update will be in our next edition.

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

James Tewayguna
Kikmongwi

Leo Lacapa, Jr.
Soyal Mongwi

Sam Tenakhongva
Katsin Mongwi

Kikmongwi Spokesmen

Dickson Silas,
Albert Siquah
Albert Silas

FMCV STAFF

Ivan Sidney,
Village Administrator

Brannon Sidney
Accountant

Merideth Qotswisiwma
Water Clerk

Alphonso Sakeva, Jr.
Water Operations Supv.

Joshua Huma
Public Safety Officer

Ramon Howato
Public Safety Officer

Louella Furcap
PIO/Editor Village Crier

TRIBAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Albert Siquah
Dale Siquah
Wallace Youvella, Jr.

PUBLICATION

The Village Crier is published on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. All articles, announcements, etc. are due Wednesday before publication.

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**Water is Precious
Conserve your Water**

DON'T BE A DRIP!



BE PATRIOTIC ...

STOP LEAKS...

SAVE WATER ...

THE OVERSEER IS COUNTING ON US!

Baptist Church Love Gift from P1

“We are very grateful to Pastor Park and the Church congregation for this Love Gift,” said FMCV Administrator Ivan Sidney. “The Village church has had a strong presence in our community for over a hundred years and many lives have been touched by the services and ministry of the church. We appreciate the work of the missionaries and the outreach to our community members; especially, during these unprecedented times. The Gift will

be used to enhance all the work that is being done from this office. FMCV does not receive any funding from the Tribe and/or federal government and this gift means a lot.”

The traditional leadership have always supported the mission work and gave their blessings to have the Baptist Church Sanctuary established in the community and recently renewed their Church land lease.

Upcoming Tribal Elections for Hopi Chairman and Vice Chairman

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE HOPI TRIBE

Article IV, Sec. 9:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Candidates for the offices of the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall:

- Be members of the Hopi Tribe,
- Twenty-five years of age or older,
- And must speak the Hopi language.
- Each candidate for either of said offices must also have a primary and physical residency on the Hopi Reservation for not less than two years immediately preceding his announcement of such candidacy.
- A candidate must not have been convicted of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude within ten (10) years of candidacy.

PETITIONER’S PACKETS

A Petitioner must pick up and sign out for the Packet in person only. A short orientation will be given of the packet contents and information.

Petitioner’s Packets will be available at the Hopi Election Office located off of AZ State Highway 264, BIA Indian Rt. 2, (Leupp Road turn off) Kykotsmovi, **Arizona beginning April 12, 2021, during normal business hours.**

DEADLINE DATE TO RETURN PETITIONER’S PACKETS

MAY 14, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M. MST TO THE HOPI ELECTIONS OFFICE.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call the Hopi Election Office at 928-734-2507/2508 or email kshupla@hopi.nsn.us

PRIMARY ELECTION—SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

GENERAL ELECTION—NOVEMBER 11, 2021

for Hopi Chairman and Vice Chairman

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL Second Quarter Session

March 1, 2021

AGENDA

Month of April 2021 – Amendment #1

- I. Call To Order
- II. Certification of Tribal Council Representatives
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Announcements
- VI. Correspondence
- VII. Calendar Planning
- VIII. Approval of Minutes
- IX. Approval of Agenda
- X. Unfinished Business
 1. **Action Item #061-2020:**
To approve the settlement agreement in the Hopi Tribe v. United States of America, No. 06-0941 (Fed. Ct of Claims). Author- Fred Lomayesva, General Counsel, Office of Gen Counsel. TABLED to April 5, 2021
 2. **Action Item #-014-2021:**
To approve a Management, Development and Springing Consultant Agreement with Tonto Apache Tribe to develop and manage tribal casinos. Author/Dwayne Secakuku, Chairman Hopi Gaming Comm.
 3. **Discussion with Judge Eric Bruggink re: Settlement Agreement** in the Hopi Tribe v. United States of America, No. 06-0941 (Fed. Ct of Claims). Fred Lomayesva, General Counsel, Office of the Tribal Counsel - **Time Certain – April 6, 2021, 9am
 4. Letter dated April 6, 2021 to Honorable Secretary of Interior Haaland from Stewart Koyiyumptewa, re: Hopi Tribe’s comments regarding consultation with the Department of Interior - Clifford Qotsaquahu, Tribal Council Representative, Village of Bacavi **Time Certain – May 3, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.
 5. Letter dated February 1, 2021 from **First Mesa Consolidated Villages’ Leadership** re: Complaint on the development of aboriginal and traditional land use areas by the Hopi Tribe without consent – Phillip Quochoytewa, Sr., Tribal Council Representative, Village of Kykotsmovi - **Time Certain - May 5, 2021, 9am.
- XI. New Business
 1. **Action Item #013-2021:**
To approve a Management, Development and Springing Consultant Agreement with Tonto Apache Tribe to develop and manage tribal casinos. Author/Dwayne Secakuku, Chairman Hopi Gaming Comm.
 2. **Action Item #-014-2021:**
To approve Hopi Tribe Economic Development Corporation’s Special Land Use Assignment in the amount of 18± acres to develop Hopi Indian Trust Lands consistent with the I40 Feasibility Study for Winslow Industrial Park, Parcel 16. Author/Lucinda Smith, Chief Exec. Officer, HTEDC. **Time Certain, April 6, 2021, 2pm.
 3. **Discussion with Judge Eric Bruggink re: Settlement Agreement** in the Hopi Tribe v. United States of America, No. 06-0941 (Fed. Ct of Claims). Fred Lomayesva, General Counsel, Office of the Tribal Counsel - **Time Certain – April 6, 2021, 9am
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- XII. Reports
 1. Office of the Chairman
 2. Office of the Vice Chairman
 3. Office of Tribal Secretary
 4. Office of the Treasurer
 5. Office of the Executive Director
 6. Office of the General Counsel
 7. Land Commission
 8. Water/Energy Committee
 9. Transportation Committee
 10. Law & Order Committee
 11. Investment Committee
 12. Health/Education Committee
 13. Update Report on Pennington Litigation – Alverna Poneoma, Tribal Council Rep. Village of Sipaulovi
 14. Update Report on Gaming negotiations – Alverna Poneoma, Tribal Council Rep. Village of Sipaulovi
 15. Report by Vice Chairman Tenakhongva on visit to Bears Ears Clifford Qotsaquahu, Tribal Council Rep Village of Bacavi
- XII. Adjournment

FMCV responds to need for trailer hook up for medical staff

By: Louella Furcap
FMCV Village Crier

With the need for medical personnel at the Hopi Health Care Center, visiting nurses responded to the call for help, but found themselves having to commute daily from nearby border towns (approx. 70 miles away), due to the lack of hous-

ing and/or the necessary infrastructure to support RV/travel trailers.

The nurses reached out to First Mesa Consolidated Villages Administrator Ivan Sidney who immediately made the necessary arrangements to have space and utility

hook-ups made available for RV trailers near the First Mesa Elementary School.

“We are always happy to assist where and when we can, especially when it comes to the health care and educational needs of our people,”

said Sidney. “Our Public Safety officers routinely monitor the Elementary School campus and the Hopi Housing Authority complex adjacent to the trailer units, including patrolling the community and villages of First Mesa. They will be fine.”

PUBLIC NOTICE Arsenic Levels exceed Federal Water Standard

By: Alphonso Sakeva, Jr.
FMCV Water Operations Supervisor

Per the Compliance Agreement signed with the EPA in 2015, the First Mesa Consolidated Village Water Program is required to provide quarterly Notices of the high arsenic level to its customers, up until the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project is complete.

NOTICE: The Polacca water system recently violated the drinking water standards for arsenic. Although this is not an emergency, as one of our customers, you have the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results we received show that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic. The standard for arsenic is 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 10 parts per billion (ppb). Arsenic in the Polacca water system was found at 0.016 mg/L-West-Well #5 and 0.021 mg/L East-Well #8 for the month of September 2020.

Arsenic in the drinking water can come from the erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, or glass and electronic production waste.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative water supply, such as bottled water. If you have specific health concerns, please consult your health provider.

What does this mean?

Your water is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

The Polacca water system will be tied into the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP). The source wells for the HAMP have, and are expected to have, arsenic levels below 10ppb. Construction of the first phase of the HAMP, which will tie in the Polacca water system, is presently expected to be started in the fiscal year 2021. Once the Polacca water system is tied into HAMP, the arsenic should be resolved.

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Mesa Consolidated Villages
Water Department
PO Box 260
Polacca, AZ 86042

Please share this information with all people who drink Polacca water, especially those who may have received this notice directly (for example, people in schools and businesses).

This notice is being sent to you by the First Mesa Consolidated Villages, Polacca Water System, Public Water System ID No. 090400106.

Date Distributed: April 05, 2021

Extreme Fire Dangers

By: Louella Furcap
FMCV Village Crier

The First Mesa Consolidated Villages Public Safety Program reminds everyone of the extreme dry conditions and high winds that can cause fires to burn quickly out of control. Recently the First Mesa area has had several brush fires, which were fanned by strong winds.

This past week, a vehicle travelling west on highway 264, between Polacca and Second Mesa, had a broken piece of metal hanging from under the vehicle, causing sparks to fly along the roadway.

With the strong winds, flying sparks quickly ignited several patches along 264, with at least six brush fires burning at one time.

FMCV Public Safety crew immediately responded as well as several residents in the area. Shortly after, the Hopi fire & Safety crew and the Hopi Police also responded. With the help of everyone, fires at all the locations were distinguished.

The vehicle was stopped near Second Mesa.





PO BOX 123 KYKOTSMOVI, AZ 86039, (928)737-6342; APRIL 2021

HOPI CHR NEWSLETTER



When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

COVID 19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.

WHAT HAS CHANGED

If you've been fully vaccinated:

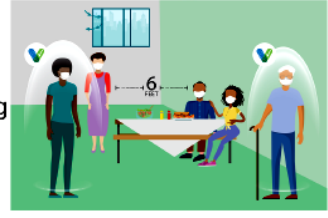
- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.



What Hasn't Changed

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You should still take steps to protect yourself and others in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:
 - In public
 - Gathering with unvaccinated people or others not from your household
 - Visiting with a non-household member or who lives with a person at increased risk
- You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.
- If you do travel off reservation, you'll still need to follow CDC requirements and recommendations.
- You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

- HOPI HERT (928) 734-3661
AFTER HOURS (928)205-7295
- HOPI HEALTH CARE CENTER COVID-19 HOTLINE (928)737-6188
- HOPI HEALTH CARE CENTER APPOINTMENT (928)737-6049/6081
- HOPI CHR PROGRAM (928)737-6342
- HOPI MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (928)737-6351

THE NAVAJO NATION
JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

Navajo Department of Health
Health Advisory Notice (HAN)

First COVID-19 case of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) Variant identified on the Navajo Nation



WINDOW ROCK, AZ – The Navajo Health Command Operations Center under the Navajo Department of Health confirmed the nation's first COVID-19 case of the B.1.1.7 variant. The B.1.1.7 variant also referred to as the U.K. variant and the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) considers this variant a concern as it is highly transmissible. The case was detected through ongoing strain surveillance of COVID-19 positive samples collected from health facilities on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Epidemiology Center (NEC) is leading the Navajo Nation SARS-CoV-2 Strain Surveillance (NNS3) Project under the Health Command Operations Center and in partnership with Navajo Area Indian Health Service and local Tribal Health Organizations (P.L. 93-638). The case was confirmed mid-March and is an elder and resides in the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. The case is recovering and none of the contacts tested positive. Routine contact tracing was completed and no additional cases were found.

We recommend the following safety precautions:

- Daily COVID-19 prevention measures will prevent the spread of variants. Avoid crowds, ventilate indoor spaces and remember the "3 Ws":
 - Wear a mask
 - Watch your distance "Social/Physical distance"
 - Wash hands frequently
- Get vaccinated when you are eligible. COVID-19 vaccines prevent the occurrence of new variants. Studies suggest that the current COVID-19 vaccines will work well against the most common variants and will prevent severe disease.

For more information, including helpful prevention tips, and resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19, visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19> . For COVID-19 related questions and information, call (928) 871-7014.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Leo Lacapa
Happy 27th Anniversary to Paul and Lucille Sidney

Condolences to all those who have lost loved ones

These past few months First Mesa has seen many of our family and relatives leave us.

Although it is hard and sorrowful when one departs from our presence, we must continue to carry on their teachings, works and legacy they left behind. They would not want us to stop what they started.

Please be safe and take care of yourself and your families.

First Mesa Consolidated Villages

Words of Life

You have allowed us (me) to suffer much hardship, but you will restore us (me) to life again and lift us (me) up from the depths of the earth. 21 You will restore us (me) to even greater honor and comfort us (me) once again. Psalms 71:20

FMCV Business Hours

Open for Business by Telephone only:
Monday—Friday
10am—3pm

Water payments may be made during these hours by Credit or Debit card by calling 928-737-2670.

Money Order payments may be sent via US Mail to:

FMCV Water Dept.
P.O. Box 260
Polacca, AZ 86042

Money Orders may also be placed in the secure drop box outside the door.

For assistance, press the intercom button outside the door.

If you call outside these hours, you will hear a Recording asking you to leave a message including: Your name, telephone number and a short message.

Someone will return your call upon receipt of your message.

Hopi Tribe Department of Health & Human Services

COVID-19 Emergency Response Report, April 16

KYKOTSMOVI, AZ – April 16, 2021 — Nationwide there has been a moderate increase in cases due to a combination of the more transmissible variants of the COVID-19 virus and certain states lifting their preventative guidelines. Currently the rising cases are mostly found in the Midwest and the North East. Arizona has continued to have a lower relative Covid-19 burden, but Coconino County and the Western communities of the Navajo Reservation have continued to see increases. Furthermore, the Hopi reservation continues to see small pockets of Covid-19 and is monitoring for community transmission. We all must continue to practice the three Ws, Watch your distance, Wash your hands and Wear a mask. In addition to the three Ws, everyone who can be vaccinated (people over the age of 16), should contact their healthcare provider about receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

For the Covid-19 vaccines, overall effectiveness has been reported in the range of 70% to 95% for symptomatic Covid-19, which is well above the average effectiveness of the flu vaccine, for example. Not only do these vaccines appear to lessen risk of developing COVID-19, but they also appear to lessen the risk of severe disease. In large clinical trials, most side effects have been minor. When side effects do occur, they typically last just a few days. A side effect or reaction isn't necessarily all bad, as it may indicate that the body is building protection against the virus. Common side effects include: 1.) pain at the site of the injection; 2.) painful, swollen lymph nodes in the arm where the vaccine was injected; 3.) overall fatigue; 4.) headache. It is normal to feel apprehensive about any new treatment. But two common misconceptions often result in people avoiding the COVID vaccine unnecessarily. When health problems develop soon after vaccination, people tend to blame the vaccine. Yet cancer, strokes, heart attacks, blood disorders, and rare illnesses occurred before the pandemic, and will of course continue to happen long after. If a person contracts COVID-19 soon after vaccination, it is not due to the vaccine. No live SARS-CoV-2 virus is used in the currently available vaccines or those in development.

Here is a quick overview of the COVID-19 statistics on a national, state, and local level:

As of April 16, 2021

The United States now has approximately 31.3 million confirmed positive cases with 74,834 new cases and over 562,296 deaths reported.

Over 852,570 confirmed positive cases now exist in Arizona. Of those, close to 16,032 are in Navajo County alone.

The Hopi Health Care Center has tested over 9,078 patients to this date. Over 1,385 of those tests at Hopi Health Care Center came back positive with 1004 from Hopi Tribal members. Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation reported 269 positives for Hopi Villages with a combined number of 1273 positive Hopi Tribal members.

Village	Population Estimate	Number Vaccinated*	Percent of population vaccinated	Percent relative to the average	Vaccine Ranking Highest=1
Paaqavi	350	158	45.14%	94.32%	7
Hotvela	871	423	48.59%	101.52%	3
Kiqötsmovi	709	455	64.17%	134.07%	1
Musangnuvi	679	239	35.19%	73.52%	8
Munqapi	1,146	568	49.56 %	103.52%	2
Orayvi	260	85	32.69%	68.3%	9
Songòopavi	1,013	485	47.87%	100.0%	4
Supawlavi	371	169	45.55%	95.17%	6
Polacca	1,908	914	47.09%	98.39%	5
Total*	7304**	3,496	47.86%	100%	

This Table looks at both cases per capita for the Tribe and persons that have received at least one dose of the vaccine since the beginning of the pandemic. The village populations were calculated from the enrollment data from the Tribe and is simply a rough estimate. The most important feature of the table is the percent relative to the average for vaccination to target our implementation. It is also important to evaluate the prevalence to vaccine acceptance. This comparison demonstrates the health behavior of the village.

*Excludes the vaccines from Keams Canyon, Spider Mound and those calculated as Second Mesa. The three groups combine for another 329 Hopi Tribal members who have received at least the first dose of the vaccine.

Total Reservation percent vaccinated—52.36%
Eligible population vaccinated—59.72%



Hopi COVID-19 Reported Cases by Hopi Health Care Center Cases* April 16, 2021					
	Number Tested Today	Cumulative Number Positive	Cumulative Number Negative	Total Number in Process	Total Tested
Number of Cases per Village as of April 16, 2021	Reported by HHCC	Reported by Tuba City Regional Healthcare Corporation	Total		
Kiqötsmovi	102	26	128		
Orayvi	27		27		
Polacca (Walpi-Sitsom'ovi-Tewa)	274	9	283+		
Musangnuvi	91	2	93		
Supawlavi	58	1	59+		
Songòopavi	218	1	219+		
Yuwelu-paki	12		12		
Paaqavi	53		53		
Hotvela	120	45	165(+)		
Keams Canyon	42	10	52		
Flagstaff		1	1		
Munqapi	1	174*	175*		
Phoenix	1		1		
Winslow	4		4		
Prescott	1		1		
TOTAL	1004	269	1273		

The information by villages presented above is released by the Hopi Department of Health & Human Services, and the data shown reflects patients tested at the Hopi Health Care Center and at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation specifically on Hopi tribal members. The data from Lower and Upper Munqapi is consolidated until specific data can be re-verified. (+) number decreased due to individual being identified from another village. The community of residence for one Hopi Tribal member who tested positive at HHCC is in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The community of residence for four Hopi Tribal members who tested positive at HHCC is in Winslow. The data here does not include all state-wide data from other facilities such as Flagstaff, Winslow, Phoenix or other hospitals.

PREVENTION:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Watch for symptoms. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported –ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.</p> <p>Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cough | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing 3. Or at least two of these symptoms: 4. Fever 5. Chills 6. Repeated shaking with chills 7. Muscle pain 8. Headache 9. Sore throat 10. Congestion or runny nose | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Nausea or vomiting 12. Diarrhea 13. New loss of taste or smell <p>Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness.</p> <p>This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.</p> |
|--|--|--|

CONTINUE TO PRACTICE SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK. VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE AT HOPI HEALTH CARE CENTER.

FEMA providing financial Assistance for COVID-19 related Funeral Expenses incurred after Jan 20, 2020

WASHINGTON -- In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized today, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide.

"At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters," said Acting FEMA Administrator Bob Fenton. "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense grief for so many people. Although we cannot change what has happened, we affirm our commitment to help with funeral and burial expenses that many families did not anticipate."

Who can apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance?

You may qualify if:

1. You are a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who paid for funeral expenses after January 20, 2020, and
2. The funeral expenses were for an individual whose death in the United States, territories or the District of Columbia, may have been caused by or was likely the result of COVID-19.

Who Cannot Apply?

§ A minor child cannot apply on behalf of an adult who is not a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

§ There are several categories of aliens lawfully present in the U.S. who are not eligible for FEMA's Individual and Households Program assistance, including funeral assistance. These include, but are not limited to:

- ◇ Temporary tourist visa holders
- ◇ Foreign students
- ◇ Temporary work visa holders
- ◇ Habitual residents such as citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

HOW DO I APPLY?

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number:

844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585.

Applications begin on April 12, 2021

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday
9am to 9pm, Eastern Standard Time

Call this dedicated toll-free phone number to get a COVID-19 Funeral Assistance application completed with help from FEMA's representatives. Multilingual services will be available.

No online applications will be accepted.

When you call, it should take about 20 minutes to apply. We will not rush through calls because we intend to make sure every applicant gets their questions answered and receives the help they need to apply.

It is important to gather all necessary information and documentation before applying for assistance. This will help us take the application and process it in a timely manner.

Once you have applied and are given an application number, you may provide supporting documentation to FEMA a few ways:

- § Upload to your DisasterAssistance.gov account
- § Fax documents: 855-261-3452.
- § Mail documents: P.O. BOX 10001, Hyattsville, MD 20782

I'm getting a busy signal. What do I do?

§ We are receiving high call volumes, which is causing some technical issues. Some applicants are reaching operators, while others are receiving a busy signal.

§ If your call was not able to connect, please try calling again later. We are working to correct the

technical issues. Keep in mind there is no deadline to apply.

Can a funeral home apply on behalf of the family?

Funeral homes are not eligible to apply on behalf of a family or to be a co-applicant on the Funeral Assistance application. The person applying must be an individual, not a business, who incurred the funeral expenses.

What funeral expenses are covered?

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance will assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation. Any receipts received for expenses that are not related to funeral services will not be determined eligible expenses. Expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation typically include, but are not limited to:

- § Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual
- § Transfer of remains
- § Casket or urn
- § Burial plot or cremation niche
- § Marker or headstone
- § Clergy or officiant services
- § Arrangement of the funeral ceremony
- § Use of funeral home equipment or staff
- § Cremation or interment costs
- § Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
- § Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances

I was responsible for funeral expenses for more than one person whose death was attributed to COVID-19. Can I apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance for more than one death? Is there a limit?

Yes, applicants may receive assistance for the funeral expenses of multiple deceased individuals.

Assistance is limited to a maximum of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application per state, territory, or the District of Columbia.

Someone else helped me pay for funeral expenses. Can they apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance?

FEMA will generally only provide COVID-19 Funeral Assistance to one applicant per deceased individual.

To be approved for reimbursement of funeral expenses due to a COVID-19 fatality, you must have incurred funeral expenses for the deceased individual and have documentation (receipts, funeral home contracts, etc.) showing your name as the responsible party.

We recognize that multiple individuals may have contributed to funeral expenses for one deceased individual. FEMA will work with applicants in these situations and those who submit multiple receipts for funeral expenses when their name does not appear on the receipt.

If more than one individual contributed toward funeral expenses, they must register with FEMA under the same application as the applicant and co-applicant, or the first applicant that submits all required documentation will be awarded COVID-19 Funeral Assistance for the deceased individual. No more than one co-applicant can be included on an application.

If a minor child directly incurred funeral expenses for a COVID-19-related death and the documentation supports that payment, the minor child's application could be reviewed for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance.

Can I apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance even though I've already applied for a recent disaster event?

Yes. Applicants who recently applied for FEMA assistance for home and/or personal property damage from a disaster and also had funeral expenses

for a death attributed to COVID-19 after January 20, 2020, may apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance. A separate application will be required.

Are pre-planned and pre-paid funerals eligible for reimbursement if the individual died due to COVID-19?

Any source of payment designated specifically to pay for a funeral in anticipation of a future death cannot be reimbursed under this assistance. This includes burial or funeral insurance, a pre-paid funeral contract, a pre-paid trust for funeral expenses, or an irrevocable trust for Medicare.

What is the deadline to apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance?

At this time, there is no deadline to apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance. FEMA will communicate a specific deadline once established.

Will the money run out?

Passing of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 now makes it possible for families and individuals who incur funeral expenses due to COVID-19 in 2021 and beyond the ability to apply for Funeral Assistance. Since there is no way to predict how many COVID-related deaths may occur between now and 2025, an exact funding cap has not been established.

AFTER RECEIVING A DECISION

How will I receive COVID-19 Funeral Assistance?

If you are approved for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, you will receive a check by mail or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you chose when applying for assistance.

I received a decision letter and was not approved. How do I appeal FEMA's decision?

You have 60 days from the date of the decision letter to upload, fax or mail a signed letter appealing FEMA's decision.

The appeal should include the following:

- § Why you think the decision is not correct.
 - Supporting documentation (i.e., death certificate, funeral expenses, or other supporting documentation).
 - The application number must be included on each page of the appeal submitted.
 - Appeal documents may be submitted by:

§ Upload through our Disaster Assistance.gov account.

The death certificate doesn't attribute the death to COVID-19. How do I get a death certificate amended?

It is possible to change or amend a death certificate. This process starts with contacting the person who certified the death. This may be a treating doctor, a coroner or a medical examiner, and their name and address is on the death certificate. Applicants may present evidence to them to support the claim the death was attributable to COVID-19.

How do I prove my loved one who died did not have life insurance?

Applicants will not be asked to provide proof of life insurance. Life insurance proceeds are not considered a duplication of Funeral Assistance benefits. However, expenses paid for with burial/funeral insurance, or a pre-paid funeral, are considered a duplication of benefits and therefore, are not eligible for reimbursement under this program.

MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families.

§ [Call or text the Disaster Distress Helpline](#) at 800-985-5990 for immediate help and support.

§ The American Red Cross is operating a [Virtual Family Assistance Center](#) to provide comfort, support, information and resource referrals for families that have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

§ All support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential. Call 833-492-0094 or [visit the Virtual Family Assistance Center website](#).

BIE Implementation of American Rescue Plan Funding

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan provides another round of coronavirus relief funds for Education. Congress has provided schools across the United States nearly \$200 billion in COVID-19 relief in this past year making this the third pandemic federal aid package for K-12 education.

Of the \$850 million in American Rescue Plan funding, BIE plans to allocate the funding as follows:

- \$85 million (10%) will be managed by BIE School Operations for investments such as the buildout of a Learning Management System and ventilation improvement projects.
- Of the remaining \$765 million, the distributions are as follows:
- 70% or \$535.5 million will be allocated to K-12 schools based on the Weighted Student Unit formula
- 30% or \$229.5 million will be allocated to Tribally Colleges and Universities based on student count.

BIE is currently awarding funds to schools and TCUs.

TIMELINE: BIE Funding Allocations for ARP \$850 Million:

- Currently completed: funding allocations to K-12 Bureau-operated schools.
- Plan for April 25th completion: funding allocations for K-12 TCS; grant specialists entering grant documents for school drawdown.
- Plan for April 23rd completion: TCU agreements are in process

ALLOWABLE COSTS: BIE is using the same set of allowable costs identified by the Department of Education for CARES Act funding, the categories are:

- (1) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- (2) Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.

- (3) Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
- (4) Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
- (5) Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- (6) Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
- (7) Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide *meals* to eligible students, how to *provide technology for online learning* to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under *the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure *other educational services can continue* to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
- (8) Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
- (9) Providing mental health services and supports.
- (10) Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care
- (11) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency

SPECIAL EVENT FOR
FIRST MESA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

You are invited to a Zoom meeting featuring
Storytelling by Emmett Garcia followed by live music
from Native Roots!

When: Friday, April 23, 2021 01:00 PM

FMES SPECIAL EVENT
STORYTELLING & LIVE MUSIC



Native Roots

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021
1:00 MR. EMMETT GARCIA- STORYTELLING
2:00 NATIVE ROOTS

JOIN VIA ZOOM BY REGISTERING AT:
[HTTP://BIT.LY/FMESNATIVEROOTS](http://bit.ly/fmesnativeroots)

**Continue wearing a mask
after getting the vaccine.**

Masks are an important first step to stop COVID-19. Wearing a mask decreases the spread of germs, keeping us safe from COVID-19 and other illness.

**Want to Share News with the
Community?**

Announcements, Special events, School News, Recognitions, Happenings in our Community and Letters to the Editor are always welcome!

Email to: Lnahsonhoya@gmail.com

**Visit us online at:
firstmesaconsolidatedvillages.com**