



# MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

MENOMINEE TRIBAL CLINIC

PO BOX 970

Keshena, WI 54135-0970

12/15/2020

Dear Menominee Nation,

We write to you as your health care providers. Our oath of profession and the honor of working in your midst confer upon us solemn responsibility. It is our ethical and rightful duty to protect your health and best insure the richness and quality of your lives.

We watch first hand as Covid 19 ravages Menominee lives. We have seen Covid 19 ruin health. We have seen Menominee die, leaving loved ones saddened and stunned beyond measure. We see the economic stress and toll on mental health wrought by the pandemic. We are aware of the history of inadequate and unethical actions by government authorities in tribal communities during other health emergencies. We humbly acknowledge your reasons to be wary. Given these circumstances we state the following:

We believe taking vaccines for Covid 19 is necessary to end this pandemic, stop the premature deaths of Menominee people, and to return life to normal.

We believe these vaccines were developed quickly because millions of lives depend on them. The technology behind these vaccines has been developed over the past 16 years.

We believe the intentions of the researchers and physicians who develop these vaccines are true, earnest, and forthright. We believe training, experience, and knowledge are indispensable in developing safe and effective vaccines.

We believe the tens of thousands of people studied, including Native Americans, to develop these vaccines would bring to light any serious risks or bad effects, and these large numbers are what make the speed of development acceptable. We are assured by knowing other physicians independently and thoroughly evaluate the research before vaccines are approved. We believe the research proves the vaccines to be safe and effective.

We believe the risk of brief side effects are worth the benefits of avoiding Covid 19 infections and death.

We will take the vaccine ourselves so we can continue to take care of you. We acknowledge it is unknown how long the protection of the vaccine will last but it is clear Menominee will continue to die if the vaccines are not taken.

We recommend all Menominee adults who are eligible take the Covid 19 vaccine as it becomes available.



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With respect and reverence for your lives and sacred history, and with the responsibility we carry, we make this recommendation,

*Angela*

*Shannon Dawn MD*

*Beth Hillis MD*

*Pat*

*Erin Anthony APNP*

*Joyce S. Mue APNP*

*Erin K. P. APNP*

*[Signature] M.D.*

*[Signature]*

*See Also APNP*

*Heather M. Nennig MD*

*Kevin Colhoun MD*