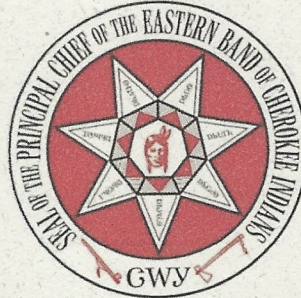




The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed

Vice Chief Alan B. Ensley



Adam Wachacha
Chairman
Snowbird &
Cherokee Co. Township

David Wolfe
Vice-Chairman
Yellowhill Township

Tribal Council Members

Tom Wahnetah
Yellowhill Township

Bucky Brown
Snowbird &
Cherokee Co. Township

Richard French
Big Cove Township

Perry Shell
Big Cove Township

Bo Crowe
Wolfstown Township

Chelsea Saunooke
Wolfstown Township

Tommye Saunooke
Painttown Township

Dike Sneed
Painttown Township

Albert D. Rose
Birdtown Township

Boyd Owle
Birdtown Township

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 23 (2021)

March 26, 2021

Easing of COVID-19 Protection Measures

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians continues to witness a reduced prevalence of COVID-19 positive cases on the Qualla Boundary. While the implementation of strict social distancing measures helped the EBCI protect tribal citizens and community members as the healthcare system worked to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, the EBCI may now rely upon access to the vaccine coupled with minimal social distancing guidelines to protect our residents.

Upon notification of the potential of a vaccine, the EBCI Public Health & Human Services Division and Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority collaborated to establish a Mass Vaccination Committee. The Mass Vaccination Committee has worked to secure a significant supply of vaccines for EBCI tribal citizens, community members, and staff that work on the Qualla Boundary. The efforts by this committee to disperse vaccinations have resulted in 31% of the EBCI having received at least 1 COVID-19 vaccine shot and 23% of the EBCI being fully vaccinated. While the EBCI has set a goal for 75% of our population being vaccinated, the lower rate of prevalence of positive cases combined with the accessibility of the vaccine warrants the easing of social distancing restrictions.

Beginning at 5pm Friday March 26, 2021 the following guidelines shall be implemented:

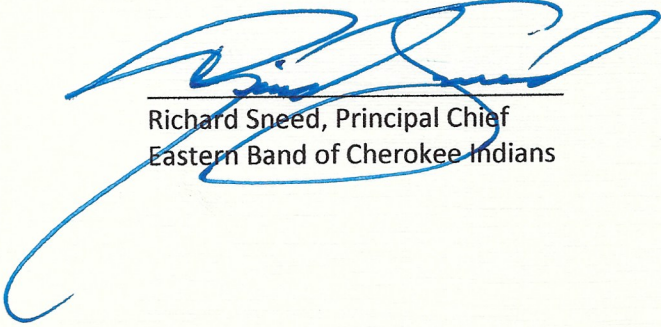
- Retail businesses may operate at full capacity. Retail businesses include grocery stores, convenience stores, retail stores, personal care businesses, tattoo businesses, and museums.
- Restaurants, breweries, gyms, pools, playgrounds, recreation centers, and amusement parks may operate at 75% indoors and 100% outdoors.
- Stadiums, conference spaces, outdoor event spaces, and movie theaters may operate at 50% capacity indoors and 75 % outdoors. The restrictions barring standing receptions and cocktail hours are hereby rescinded.

Face coverings must be worn indoors if anyone else is in that space who is not a member of the same household. The exception to this rule is that face coverings may be removed in eating establishments while eating but must be worn when not eating. Face coverings

must be worn outdoors if it is not possible to consistently be physically distant by more than six (6) feet from non-household members.

It is highly recommended that individuals who are elderly and/or have compromised immune systems should avoid large gatherings, gathering in close proximity with those who live outside their home, and are highly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

This order is issued under authority granted in Cherokee Code Chapter 166, Article II, and the Declaration of State of Emergency issued on March 13, 2020. It is a supplement and amendment to that Declaration and shall remain in effect while the Tribe is under the State of Emergency.



Richard Sneed, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians