

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor

“Gila River Strong”

Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Monica Lynn Antone
Lieutenant Governor

AMENDED COMPREHENSIVE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16 REGARDING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, from March 13, 2020 through October 2, 2020, I issued eight separate Executive Orders addressing various aspects of the coronavirus pandemic, ranging from a declaration of a public emergency to a requirement that all persons wear a mask while on the Gila River Indian Community Reservation; and

WHEREAS, I amended these separate Executive Orders on numerous occasions to extend and clarify them as necessary; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2020, I issued a new comprehensive Executive Order No. 9 that combined these prior Executive Orders into one single order, setting forth the numerous elements of our governmental response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, I amended Executive Order No. 9 on two occasions to both address necessary clarifications, and also to extend its effect until April 12, 2021, in order to provide necessary time to consider important possible modifications to the pandemic restrictions contained therein; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2021, I issued comprehensive Executive Order No. 10, which made various changes including approval of the Tribal Government Return to Work Plan and easing certain restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, I issued comprehensive Executive Order No. 11 to address growing concerns regarding new COVID-19 variants; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2021, I issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 12 to further address recent increases in COVID-19 due primarily to the spread of the Delta variant among unvaccinated individuals; and

525 West Gu u Ki · P.O. Box 97 · Sacaton, Arizona 85147

Telephone: 520-562-9841 · Fax: 520-562-9849 · Email: executivemail@gric.nsn.us

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2021, I issued Amended Comprehensive Executive Order No. 12, which directed that all schools on the Gila River Indian Reservation provide classes virtually until further notice; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2022, I issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 13, which provided for the reopening of Community schools subject to approval of school reopening plans; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2022, I issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 14, which continued the Community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2022, I issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 15, which addressed the reopening of the Community's schools for the 2022-2023 academic year; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2022, I issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 16; and

WHEREAS, the Community's Tribal Health Department has issued updated COVID-19 Guidance for GRIC Departments, Entities and Organizations, effective September 5, 2022, which requires issuance of an updated executive order; and

WHEREAS, as part of our pandemic response, the Community has emphasized the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters and made them available to all eligible members of the Community, all employees of the Community and its enterprises, all Community residents, all residents of any household in which a Community member resides, and all teachers who teach at a school located on the Gila River Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, it continues to be the policy of the Community under this Executive Order to encourage all those eligible to receive a vaccine take their vaccine and any recommended boosters at the earliest opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Community must continue to be diligent in its efforts to address the coronavirus pandemic and take aggressive measures to continue to protect our Members and the public at large from this disease and the variants that continue to affect our Community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, through the authority granted to me in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community and Title 1 of the Gila River Indian Community Code,