



## Tribe requires staff to show proof of vaccine or face weekly testing requirement

By Diane Rodriguez

On Aug. 24, the Siletz Tribal Council passed a resolution requiring staff at Tribal entities to be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID testing. The Tribal entities include:

- Siletz Tribal administration offices/departments
- Tribal area offices in Portland, Salem and Eugene
- Siletz Tribal Business Corporation
- Tenas Illahee Child Care Center

- Siletz Community Health Clinic
- Siletz Tribal Gaming Commission
- Internal Audit Department

This also includes Tribal Council members, residents of Tribal congregate care facilities (men's and women's Transitional Living Centers); and Tribal contractors and their employees must follow this policy.

Individuals who have been vaccinated must send proof of vaccination to the Tribe's Human Resources Department

staff or designated Tribal employee. Those who are not vaccinated are subject to weekly testing at an entity of their choice. Home test results will not be accepted.

The Tribe will pay for any out-of-pocket expenses for the vaccination required for employees of any Tribal entity, Tribal Council members and Tribal congregate care facility residents. Employees of Tribal entities also will be paid for the time taken to receive vaccinations and/or for testing.

A medical exemption from this policy is available with a signed exemption form from a medical provider. This does not, however, exempt a person from the weekly testing requirement as they are still able to spread the virus. Those individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 or have received a previous positive antibody test also are not exempt from testing.

Tribal entities, with the exception of the clinic, remain closed to the public at this time.



Please see page 10 for information about the Tribe's \$200 vaccine promotion.



### COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM

The Siletz Tribe has established multiple COVID-19 Relief Programs to ensure all eligible Tribal members received assistance for the unexpected costs and/or loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency since the Tribal Declaration of Emergency on March 17, 2020.

The Siletz Tribal Council intends to approve, by Tribal Resolution, a one-time Emergency Assistance Payment in 2021 that falls within the General Welfare Ordinance guidelines for each eligible and living Tribal member enrolled on Oct. 31, 2021, including minors. The payment amount will be determined by Tribal Council Resolution on Nov. 19, 2021.

The guidance by the U.S. Department of Treasury requires each adult Tribal member applying for assistance to complete an application for programs and payments. An application was mailed Sept. 1, 2021, to all Tribal members with a valid address on file with Enrollment as of that same day. The application is also available on the Tribal website.

- You can call 541-444-8224 after noon on Nov. 19, 2021, to hear a recording of the information as it was voted on.
- This payment will not be subject to garnishment through Siletz Tribal Court.
- This assistance is considered non-reportable based on the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Ordinance.
- Only one application per eligible and living Siletz Tribal member enrolled on Oct. 31, 2021. Adults must complete their own application. The parent with physical custody should list their children on the parent's own application. Non-Tribal parents, including foster parents, should apply on the Tribal member children's behalf.
- For parents/guardians who are applying for minor children in their care, the child's full name and date of birth must be listed on the application for it to be considered complete. If the Roll # is not completed, staff will fill that information in. Children must be listed in the database system used by Enrollment in the same household as the adult applying on their behalf. Foster families will be verified by Enrollment with the Indian Child Welfare Department.
- For adults who are not Tribal members who are applying on behalf of a Tribal member minor, a W9 form must also be submitted. Contact staff via [CARES@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:CARES@ctsi.nsn.us) if you are in need of that form and it is also available on the Tribal website.
- Submit a completed application by **FRIDAY, NOV. 12, 2021**, by 4:30 p.m. PST and receive an Emergency Assistance Payment dated **Dec. 1, 2021**. Any application submitted **after 4:30 p.m. PST on Nov. 12, 2021**, will not be eligible for payment.
- Submit completed application one of the following four ways:

1. MAIL – CTSI, Attn: Enrollment, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549
2. SCAN and EMAIL – [CARES@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:CARES@ctsi.nsn.us)
3. DROP OFF at any area office using their drop box
4. FAX to 541-444-8296

## Newland ceremonially sworn in as assistant secretary for Indian affairs

WASHINGTON – Bryan Newland was ceremonially sworn in Sept. 8 as Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Indian affairs by Secretary Deb Haaland (see photo right). Newland is a citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe), where he recently completed his tenure as Tribal president.

“Bryan has worked on behalf of Indigenous peoples and Indian Country for decades. His wealth of experience will advance the department's commitment to ensuring Tribes have a seat at the table for every decision that impacts them and their communities,” said Haaland. “From clean energy projects and economic development to addressing past injustices against Tribal communities, Bryan will lead with the knowledge that we best serve Indigenous peoples when Tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities.”

“I am honored to be back at the department of the Interior working on behalf of Tribal communities and alongside a historic secretary,” said Newland. “The Biden-

