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September - Wanaq'i - Fall - Tiyam

Attention: Tribal artists

Attention Warm Springs Tribal Artists: The Museum at Warm Springs would like to announce the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Member Art Exhibit will be here soon. Important: The deadline to submit art is 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 7.

Please email or call Angela Anne Smith, museum Curator, if you have questions. The number is 541-553-3331; and the email: angela@museumatwarmsprings.org

Applications are available at the museum.

Community update

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center and Covid-19 Response Team reported there were 24 people on the reservation with active Covid-19, as of early this week.

IHS has conducted 13,506 total covid tests among the community. Of the total Warm Springs IHS tests, 847 have come back positive since the pandemic began. Other facilities have conducted testing of members, with 126 coming back positive, for a total of 973 positives among the community.

There were no reported deaths with this update. St. Charles occupancy was at nearly 80 percent. St. Charles ICUs were at almost 66 percent occupancy.

On the reservation as of earlier this week, IHS and Community Health were monitoring 13 close contacts.

IHS has given a total of 2,931 total primary vaccines for Covid-19. Second vaccines among the reservation community, meaning fully vaccinated, was at 2,462.

Thirty-one people—nursing home residents, individuals with underlying conditions, etc.—had received the third, or booster shot.

Fully vaccinated people in the community, among those eligible for the shot, are at 56.5 percent. The target for the community, as defined by the Response Team and Tribal Council, remains 70 percent.

You can call to schedule a vaccination anytime at the Health and Wellness Center, 541-553-2131.

Anyone 12 and older who is IHS eligible, or who lives or works on the reservation, and their family members can be vaccinated. Vaccinations remain the primary way to bring covid under control.

As much now as ever, it is critical that everyone practice all safety protocols. Wear your mask, indoors and outdoors, when you cannot socially distance outside your household. In other Covid-19 news:

More than two dozen people have contacted the poison center in Oregon after self-medicating against covid with a drug used to treat parasites, Ivermectin, which is not a covid treatment.

Prevention most important this flu season

Flu vaccines this month arrived at the Warm Springs clinic, and tribal and IHS health workers are at work administering the doses.

You can get the seasonal flu shot at the clinic, while health workers are also hosting community events offering easy access to this year's flu vaccination.

Last week and early this week IHS and Community Health hosted the events at various locations around Warm Springs. And this Wednesday, September 22, the flu vaccine event will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Three Warriors Market in Simnasho.

This Thursday, September 23, the clinic team will be at the Agency Longhouse parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Also this Thursday, they will be at the Warm Springs Clinic orange tent from 5 to 7 p.m.

Some other upcoming flu vaccination events: Wednesday, September 29 at Sidwalter; and October 6 at Seekseequa. Other events: October 13 at Simnasho; October 20 at Sidwalter; and October 27 at Seekseequa.

More will be scheduled, so stay tuned: KWSO 91.9 FM.

Flu vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against flu and its potentially serious complications.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

At a recent outdoor flu vaccine clinic, held by the Agency Longhouse: Katie Russell, Community Health director with the tribes' Dr. Jan, and visiting Pharmacy student Erin Reason with available flu shots.

Flu vaccination prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor's visits each year. For example, during 2019-2020 flu vaccination prevented an estimated 7.5 million influenza illnesses, 3.7 million influenza-associated medical visits, 105,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations, and 6,300 influenza-associated deaths. Flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.

Flu vaccination is an important preventative tool for people with chronic health conditions.

Flu vaccination helps protect pregnant people during and after pregnancy. And the flu vaccine can be lifesaving in children.

During the pandemic

The seasonal flu vaccination becomes especially important during these years of the covid pandemic.

Hospitals are seeing more sick patients than ever with serious the Covid-19 illness. This leaves fewer—and in many cases critically fewer—intensive care unit beds, ICUs.

The seasonal flu season brings

thousands of more patients to hospitals, with the sick suffering just from the flu: Add these to the Covid-19 cases and hospitals face critical ICU bed shortages.

For this reason alone, it is critical for community members to receive a flu vaccination this year.

The flu can cause symptoms that are similar to Covid-19. This can cause a critical misdiagnosis, and serious consequences for patients. The Centers for Disease Control says that getting a flu vaccine, in addition to mask wearing and hand hygiene, this year is as important as ever.

Greater sharing of data for public safety

It can be of critical importance for restraining orders, issued by the Warm Springs Tribal Court, to be enforced as fully off the reservation as on: The parties involved, for instance, may come in contact in Madras, as one example.

Law enforcement in the off-reservation jurisdiction would need to know about the tribal restraining order, for obvious public safety reasons. Inefficiency in sharing this information has been a problem: In the past, the tribal court order had to be specifically applied by

the off-reservation jurisdictional court. At best this is not convenient, and in worse cases some harm can result from the delay.

A new program will address this, and other public safety matters regarding communication delays among the tribal and off-reservation jurisdictions.

The Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information will allow the tribal court order to be uploaded directly to the federal data base, accessible to the off-reservation law enforcement.

The tribal records still remain confidential to tribes and tribal law

enforcement; however, there are cases when the tribal court, prosecution, Victims of Crime or law enforcement feel the information should be shared immediately. A missing person report on the reservation is another example of how instantly sharing the information could be critical. Registered sex offender information can be another example.

Warm Springs is one of 12 tribes this year joining the crime data sharing Tribal Access Program—or TAP—joining 108 other federally tribes already participating.

TAP is an important resource for the Department of Justice Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative, and the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, known as Operation Lady Justice.

The Department of Justice began TAP in 2015 in response to concerns raised by tribal leaders about the need to have direct access to federal systems. In the Northwest with Warm Springs, joining TAP this year are the Muckleshoot and Cow Creek.

Warm Springs Academy football practice at the school sports field (right). The Academy posted the Eagles' schedule: The team hosts Three Rivers on Monday, September 27. They will be away at LaPine on October 5. On October 12 they host Sisters, then play at Sisters on October 20. A scrimmage with the Jefferson County Middle School is scheduled at Madras High School under the lights, to close out the season on October 26. Spectators are reminded that face masks and social distancing are required at all 509-J schools and sports competitions.



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Afternoon Academy Eagles football practice at the school sports field.



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