



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF CYRUS BEN

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-06-B “REINSTATEMENT OF FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT”

WHEREAS, Section VI of Ordinance 50-A of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (“MBCI”) authorizes the Tribal Chief to prohibit activities or conditions during a State of Emergency to maintain public order and protect lives and property for the safety, health and welfare of tribal members and to impose prohibitions and restrictions as are necessary to accomplish those goals; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2021, I declared an Ninety-Eighth Extension of the Executive Order and State of Emergency Proclamation initially declared on March 15, 2020 in response to the ongoing public health threat posed by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, as an additional measure to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 on MBCI tribal lands, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-06, which requires all persons over the age of two (2) to wear face coverings in public places on MBCI tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, in response to a decrease in instances of COVID-19 community transmission on MBCI tribal lands, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-06-A, which partially lifted the face covering requirement for individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, I find it necessary to reinstate the face covering requirement as originally set forth in Executive Order No. 2020-06 in response to an increase in instances of COVID-19 community transmission on MBCI tribal lands, with the Choctaw Health Center reporting twelve (12) active cases of COVID-19 among persons eligible to receive healthcare services as of July 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the decision to reinstate the face covering requirement as originally set forth in Executive Order No. 2020-06 is made with the concurrence of the Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Choctaw Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cyrus Ben, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, pursuant to the authority of Ordinance 50-A, do hereby rescind Executive Order No. 2020-06-A and reinstate the requirement that masks, consisting of at least simple cloth face coverings, be worn by **all persons** two (2) years of age or older when interacting in Public Places on MBCI tribal lands. For the purposes of this Executive Order, the following definitions apply:

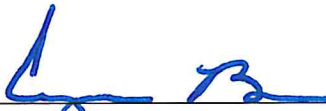
1. "Face Covering" means a device to cover the nose and mouth of a person to impede the spread of saliva or other fluids during speaking, coughing, sneezing, or other intentional or involuntary action. Medical-grade masks are not required and are, in fact, discouraged for use under this Executive Order, as they are in short supply and should generally be reserved for high-risk first responders and healthcare workers or those coming into direct contact

with suspected COVID-19 patients. Coverings may be fashioned from scarves, bandanas, or other suitable fabrics.

2. "Public Place" means:

- A. indoor spaces of businesses, places of worship, and government buildings open to the general public on tribal lands;
- B. transportation services available to the general public; and
- C. outdoor areas open to the general public where persons are gathered and unable to maintain a distance of six (6) or more feet between persons who are not from the same household.

SO ORDERED, THIS THE 21st DAY OF JULY, 2021.



CYRUS BEN, TRIBAL CHIEF

