

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

*Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor*

"Gila River Strong"

*Stephen Roe Lewis*  
Governor



*Monica Lynn Antone*  
Lieutenant Governor

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER ENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**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

**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, which was amended on October 6, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community had a swift, robust and comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the declaration of a public health State of Emergency in the Community and mandating various public health measures, including testing and vaccination programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden Administration has indicated that it will extend the federal emergency declarations to May 11, 2023, and end both emergencies—the COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency—on that date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community's public health authorities and the COVID-19 Task Force have recommended ending the public health State of Emergency commensurate with the actions of the Biden Administration.

**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, hereby issue this Executive Order Ending the Public Health State of Emergency in the Gila River Indian Community as follows:

**First**, I hereby declare that the public health State of Emergency in the Gila River Indian Community regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, shall end effective May 11, 2023, and all provisions of Amended Comprehensive Executive Order No. 16 Regarding Coronavirus Pandemic not specifically addressed in this executive order are hereby rescinded.

**Second**, all employee-related provisions contained in previous executive orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic are hereby rescinded, effective immediately, and any future directives to Community employees will be issued through the Office of the Community Manager or amendments to the *Employee Policies and Procedures Reference Guide*.

**Third**, all Community departments and employees shall comply with any subsequent directives issued by the Human Resources Department/Office of Safety and Health (HR/OSH) regarding the prevention of infections or maintenance of a safe and healthy workplace.

**Fourth**, all Community COVID-19 surveillance testing programs shall be discontinued, effective immediately. Community departments and programs may continue to make COVID-19 test kits or other personal protection equipment (PPE) available to employees upon request while current supplies last.

**Fifth**, I hereby direct that all schools located on the Gila River Indian Reservation may immediately resume normal operations and are no longer required to conduct COVID-19 testing or require COVID-19 vaccinations of students or staff (unless subsequently required by Community law).

**Sixth**, I hereby lift the moratorium on the issuance of permits for dances under Title 8, Chapter 4 of the Gila River Indian Community Code.

**Seventh**, I urge all Community members, employees, and all others eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or booster to do so at the earliest opportunity possible in order to help ensure the health and safety of our entire Community and Community members and employees will continue to be provided with information regarding vaccination opportunities.

DONE THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2023.

BY



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GOVERNOR STEPHEN ROE LEWIS