

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

UPDATE: COVID Safety Protocols

**Effective Monday, March 21, 2022 – Masks no longer required for some CSKT work environments**

March 15, 2022

## **INTRODUCTION**

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Tribal Council passed Resolution 21-066, which officially adopted the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) published periodic guidance as the framework for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines update the current CSKT COVID policy and are not meant to replace more restrictive measures that are necessary for specific circumstances (such as medical facilities, assisted-living facilities, education, and daycares, etc.) issued by a Public Health authority (like CSKT Tribal Health) for the safe operation of their facilities.

*Note: These safety protocols apply to all CSKT government facilities with the exception of Tribal Health, Early Childhood Services, Law and Order Detention Center and DHRD Transit services. Note, not being government facilities, these policies do not include board operated entities such as SKC, MVP or S&K Electronics. There are special circumstances regarding Transit as designated by CDC – please see below.*

**On March 7, 2022, CDC monitoring of COVID transmission levels demonstrated that Lake County's classification was updated recently to a low risk level. CSKT is prepared to now make the following changes to the COVID policy for CSKT Government owned buildings.**

Note: a team from the Tribal Health Department will continue to monitor CDC and local data sources for changes in COVID transmission, hospitalizations etc. That data will be used to adjust protocols as needed moving forward.

Therefore, effective March 21, 2022, CSKT is providing the following updates to the COVID policy:

1. Removal of mask mandate on March 21, 2022, occurring after two-week monitoring, where Lake County has continued to be rated as "low" for two consecutive weeks. This recommendation is based upon:
  - a. Monitoring of Lake County, and neighboring counties as many of our residents frequent those areas
  - b. Currently, Sanders and Lake counties are at "low" levels, but Flathead (Kalispell) and Missoula counties are rated at "medium/moderate"
  - c. The fact that CSKT members and the American Indian population have been and are at a higher risk for severe COVID and hospitalization from COVID-19 infection than other populations – this has been demonstrated in the data, thus we are proceeding with caution for a couple of weeks provides strong diligence by the CSKT Government

2. Temperature checks will no longer required at the entrance of buildings. Temp check machines will remain for self-use
3. Masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be available at all CSKT building entrances and at all group meetings
4. Signage will be posted on all entrances alerting visitors to restrictions if they are symptomatic and/or have exposure to COVID-19
5. It is highly recommended that masks be worn by employees that interact often with the outside public

Tribal Health and Administrative staff will continue to monitor local statistics and CDC guidance and recommendations will be made as needed for appropriate changes in policy

6. In the event Lake County and/or surrounding counties increase in their ratings, the removal of masks would move out by two-week increments
7. THD will also monitor for any new strands of COVID

For large group meetings and/or activities

8. Masks and sanitizer available at all times
9. Outside activities are safer

For CKST approved travel

10. If training or meeting attendance cannot be conducted virtually, travel can be approved
11. The CSKT employee must agree to travel for the training/meeting
12. The CSKT employee must follow all COVID safety protocols

Other Information

13. Testing is recommended if you feel ill
14. Vaccinations are encouraged for continued safety
15. COVID leave is still in place for those that are ill with COVID
16. CSKT meeting spaces have capacity limits; please continue to follow those guidelines
17. All sanitization in buildings will continue
18. Please report a positive home test on the state website immediately when testing positive  
[https://montanagovernment-aijle.formstack.com/forms/montana\\_covid\\_home\\_test\\_reporting](https://montanagovernment-aijle.formstack.com/forms/montana_covid_home_test_reporting)

As stated earlier, this policy will be in effect for all CSKT buildings and employees with the following exceptions:

- a. Tribal Health Department – due to being a medical facility a higher level of protections will be administered
- b. Early Childhood Education – must follow the Federal Head Start guidelines
- c. Other CSKT Educational entities – may determine policies
- d. CSKT Enterprises may determine policies

- e. Transit – CDC policy requires people to wear masks while on transit
- f. Non-governmental entities – may determine policies

### CSKT Designated CDC Point-of-Contact

To ensure any questions regarding these protocols or needed updates are made in a timely manner, Tribal Council appoints the Executive Officer, Rick Eneas, as its dedicated CDC point-of-contact.

Please continue to watch for any updates to this policy. Although we all are ready for COVID to be gone, we as the CSKT government must provide for a safe workplace and protection for our tribal members. Thus said, please practice good COVID safety and wear a mask where necessary, sanitize frequently and social distance when needed.

If there are any questions, please contact Shane Morigeau at [Shane.Morigeau@cskt.org](mailto:Shane.Morigeau@cskt.org) or call 406-546-4290.

If you wish to monitor CDC COVID rates, you can do so here [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

If you wish to send any comments to all members of Council, please send comments to [comments@cskt.org](mailto:comments@cskt.org)