



BLACKFEET NATION

P.O. BOX 850 BROWNING, MONTANA 59417
(406) 338-7521 FAX (406) 338-7530

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Ilf "Scott" Kipp, Vice-Chairman
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BLACKFEET TRIBE

PRESS RELEASE

March 17, 2021

Browning, MT – At a special meeting today, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council unanimously voted to allow the eastern entrance of Glacier National Park, which is located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, to open for the 2021 season.

The east entrance opening comes after a year of uncertainty with the COVID-19 Pandemic, to which the Blackfeet Tribe declared a state of emergency on March 15, 2020, due to the pandemic. Based upon the increased availability of COVID-19 testing and vaccines, the Tribe was able to move to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 Phased Plan on March 15, 2021, permitting further opening of the Blackfeet Reservation.

“With the move to phase 3 as well as consultation with medical authorities and the high rate of vaccination on the Blackfeet Reservation, the Council felt that it was time to allow the east entrance to open,” stated the Blackfeet Tribe’s Public Information Officer, James McNeely,

“The safety of the Blackfeet People remains the top priority of the Council, who will continue to work Glacier National Park, Superintendent Jeff Mow, area business owners, and local health officials.” “Masks will be required for an indefinite period of time, possibly the next couple years, said McNeely, “Also, proper hand hygiene and social distancing are still highly recommended along with regular testing. Anyone who has not receive their vaccination are encouraged to do so by contacting the Southern Piegan Clinic or Blackfeet Community Hospital.” While the CDC continues to update its response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these measures must stay in place to ensure the successful reopening of the Blackfeet Reservation, with safety as the paramount driving factor balanced with the need to recover and restore the Blackfeet economy.

As such the Blackfeet Tribe maintains a strict, safety-oriented approach to ensuring the health and welfare of the Blackfeet Reservation in accordance with Ordinance #121. The Blackfeet Incident Command Team will continue to work with the Council and all entities as we move forward into the future.

FOR THE MEDIA CONTACT:

James McNeely, Public Information Officer
(406) 338-3513
jmcneely@blackfeetnation.com