

## **MODIFICATION TO THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES TRIBAL MEMBER VACCINATION INCENTIVE POLICY**

The Colorado River Indian Tribes believe in the effectiveness and safety of vaccinating against COVID-19. To best safeguard the health of our community by encouraging vaccination, the Tribal Council is implementing a Vaccination Incentive Policy to provide a stipend to all Tribal Members aged 5 and over who are fully vaccinated using the Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

The American Rescue Plan Act provides that Indian tribes may use funds to pay for vaccine incentive programs "that provide incentives reasonably expected to increase the number of people who choose to get vaccinated, or that motivate people to get vaccinated sooner than they otherwise would have so long as such costs are reasonably proportional to the expected public health benefit".

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Every Tribal Member who is 18 years old and older, upon receipt of both of their doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, or the required single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, will be eligible to receive a one-time stipend of \$500.00 using funds received by the Tribes pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act. Tribal members who have previously received their vaccinations are eligible for this incentive.

Every Tribal Member who is 5 to 17 years old, upon receipt of both of their doses of the Pfizer vaccine, or other vaccine if subsequently approved, will be eligible to receive a one-time stipend of \$250.00 using funds received by the Tribes pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act. Tribal members who have previously received their vaccinations are eligible for this incentive.

### **PROCESS:**

Tribal Members must apply for funds and show proof of vaccination by providing a copy or photograph of your CDC issued vaccination card, state immunization record, or other medical facility record of immunization. Each applicant will need to sign a release for the Tribes for further verification of vaccination data if needed.

This stipend qualifies as an "Indian general welfare benefit" as provided by 26 U.S.C. 139E(a) and is therefore excluded from gross income and not subject to tax withholding or reporting under the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act, 26 U.S.C. 139E and IRS Revenue Procedure 2014-35. Tribal members will receive their

stipend in the same manner that general welfare payments are received. Minors' payments will be issued to the Tribal Member parent.

**Application Dates: October 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022. This is a one-time only incentive.**

An application is included with this letter and additional applications are available for download online at <https://www.crit-nsn.gov>. Completed applications should be submitted by mail to CRIT Enrollment, 26600 Mohave Rd., Parker, AZ 85344. Once tribal enrollment status and eligibility is verified by CRIT Enrollment applications shall be forwarded to CRIT Accounting for payment. Payments shall be made by the CRIT Accounting Department by check with checks being issued on a bi-weekly basis upon receipt and verification of the application.

