



Billy Friend
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Wyandotte Nation Citizens:

The Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors has determined that it is in the best interest of our citizens, employees, and visitors to cancel this year's Gathering and Powwow. While it is important to celebrate our achievements and culture at the Wyandotte Nation, COVID-19 still remains a great threat, especially for our elders, and our community. The constitutionally mandated Annual Meeting will still be held on Saturday, September 11th and due to COVID-19 restrictions, will be for tribal citizens 18 and over only. For those who may be at risk or do not feel comfortable with crowds, a drive through option will be made available. The meeting will also be available once again through Facebook live.

The current swell in COVID-19 cases and related hospitalizations is driven by the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus according to Indian Health Services and Bearskin Healthcare teams, both of which are working around the clock to address this situation. The Delta variant accounts for over 80 percent of the areas new COVID cases. Not only is COVID-19 putting added pressures and risks on our hospitals, health centers and our amazing health care team tasked with treating COVID patients, but the resurgence once again threatens the overall well-being of the Wyandotte Nation and the most vulnerable among us, including our Wyandotte elders. We must commit ourselves to following medical science, facts, and compassion as we respond to the surge and do everything within our power to protect our tribal communities.

This was a tough decision but we always want to err on the side of caution and protect our employees, citizens, and all those in attendance. Our Cultural Preservation Officer, Kim Garcia and her staff at our Cultural Center will be providing more information in a separate correspondence on ways you can participate in activities virtually via Zoom and other means. We will continue to follow up with more details via our website and Facebook page in the next few weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Friend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Billy Friend