As of September 28th, the Fort Peck Reservation reported a total of 173 active cases and 5 COVID associated deaths. These numbers differ from both the Roosevelt County and Montana Arcgis numbers due to a lag in the multiple reporting systems as well as the Fort Peck Tribes reporting only IHS eligible individuals.

Due to these increasing numbers, the Fort Peck Tribal Health Board has issued a return to a modified version of the Phase 1 reopening plan. This new order includes stricter mask and quarantine orders for both Tribal employees and those who reside within the Reservation boundaries.

The modified Phase 1 Order includes:
1. Curfew 10 pm – 5 am
2. No travel to Hotspots in or out of state.
3. Essential workers only – Determined by their Director.
4. Cultural Centers and community halls only open to funerals and wakes.
5. No more than 10 people to gather in a public space except for funerals and wakes.
6. Non-essential business and operations to close.
8. All Tribal buildings closed to the public.
9. Tribal operating hours 10 am – 2 pm.

A detailed copy of the new health order is attached to this newsletter and will be available on our Facebook page.

Fort Peck Active Totals:
Frazer: 13
Oswego: 0

Wolf Point: 40
Poplar: 108
Brockton: 6
Ft Kipp: 4
Covid Related Deaths: 5

Our deepest condolences go out to everyone who has been affected by or experienced a loss due to COVID-19.
**Chronic Wasting Disease in Montana**

As hunting season opens around Montana, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department would like to remind all hunters to stay vigilant for Chronic Wasting Disease in animals.

CWD is a fatal disease that infects deer, elk, moose, and mule. Animals infected with CWD appear very weak due to drastic weight loss (wasting) and can be witnessed walking in circles or have its legs spread far apart when walking.

Other visible symptoms include drooling, excessive thirst or urination, drooping ears, lack of fear of people, and a general lack of coordination.

The FWP is encouraging all hunters to submit a sample to aid in surveillance of CWD. Samples require the harvesting of organs like lymph nodes, spleen, and brain, however hunters can can harvest these organs at home, or bring carcasses to their local FWP office to have them harvested.

The FWP is recommending that all carcasses and hunting refuse be disposed of at landfills to help prevent CWD’s spread.

There have been no cases reported for the 2020 hunting season so far.

It should be noted that while there is no evidence that CWD can be passed to humans, it is not advised to eat from an infected animal.

If you suspect an animal is sick, report it to your regions FWP Office.

Local FWP Region 6 contact information:

1 Airport Rd
Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone: (406) 228-3700
E-mail: fwprg62@mt.gov

**California Suicide Prevention Office**

California has announced bill AB-2112 Suicide Prevention has been sent to the governor’s desk. This bill will introduce their first Suicide Prevention Office which will focus on Native American youth and communities where suicide rates are three times higher than state average, a rate now further exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

The Suicide Prevention Office will provide strategic guidance to state wide and regional partners regarding the best prevention practices and require the new office to focus their resources on high risks groups, such as Native youth, elders, veterans, and LGBTQ suicide prevention.

In a major win for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Movement the US House passed both the Savanna and Not Invisible Acts on September 21st, 2020 and are now headed to the President’s desk to be signed into law.

If approved, these bills will increase the collaboration between Tribes, law enforcement, and the federal government; allowing greater information and data sharing and improving crime prevention efforts in Indian Country.

These Acts would also include measures to establish better law enforcement practices to help track, solve, and prevent crimes against Native Americans, and would direct the Departments of Justice and Interior to consult with tribes to develop national law enforcement guidelines.

Additionally the Department of Interior would be required to designate an individual within the BIA’s Office of Justice Services to coordinate further crime prevention efforts across federal agencies and.

For a detailed summary about these Acts please visit [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)
The Fort Peck Tribes Finance Department experienced a temporary precautionary shutdown last week, dampening CARES Act Check delivery to Tribal members. A day after the shutdown was announced, those able to return to work and members from other departments began printing, stamping, and stuffing envelopes for delivery. While efforts remain strained with the new Tribal Government shutdown, Tribal members are already starting to receive their checks in the mail.

To maintain and improve speeds, please refrain from calling regarding checks.

**CARES Act Checks**

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**Judge Moves to Stop Early Census Completion**

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh granted a preliminary injunction, stopping the early census completion that the Trump Administration ordered earlier this year. This preliminary injunction would effectively return the census to its normal schedule, narrowly avoiding a predicted undercount on reservations and other rural communities. However the census schedule is in flux with the Administration appealing the injunction.

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce has now ordered all questionnaires to be returned by October 5th.

**Nursing Home Lockdown**

Northeast Montana Health Services announced Monday September 28th that the Faith Lutheran Senior Home located in Wolf Point, MT would remain in lockdown and be closed until further notice. The senior home made this decision after one of its staff members and five of their residents tested positive for COVID-19. While the residents are only suffering mild symptoms, they have been isolated to their rooms for treatment. The staff member has been notified and contact tracing is being conducted by the County Health Department.

**Who We Are >>>

**Q:** What Are Elk Teeth Used For?

**A:** Elk Teeth were used decoratively and to display a person’s status.

Many plains tribes used elk teeth to decorate dresses, helping them stand out among other women.

The more elk teeth that decorated a person’s clothing, the higher the family’s status and statures.

This is because elk only have two ivory teeth, so more teeth on a dress symbolized great hunting prowess.

These teeth could often be used as currency as well; with 100 teeth purchasing a good horse.
Finding An Agent That’s Right For You

Chairman
Floyd Azure
406-768-2314
FAzure@FortPeckTribes.net

Chairman Secretary
Misty Daniels
406-768-2301
MDaniels@FortPeckTribes.net

Vice-Chairman
Charles Headdress
406-768-2305
CHeaddress@FortPeckTribes.net

Vice-Chairman Secretary
Jourdan Lovan-Hoops
406-768-2305
JHoops@FortPeckTribes.net

Contact us at 406-768-2300

Coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

We cordially invite everyone to submit your ideas and articles for our next issue. Please email all submissions to: MDaniels@FortPeckTribes.net

FORT PECK TRIBES

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Poplar, MT 59255

About The Editor

Misty Daniels graduated from the University of Montana with a BA in Media Arts in May, 2020. Prior to her college career, she grew up and worked in Wolf Point, MT and attended Fort Peck Community College. Now she spends her spare time reading, playing video games, remodeling her home, and prepping her yard for next year’s gardening and chickens.

The Fort Peck Tribes have returned to Phase 1, reducing staff to essentials only. These essentials are determined by their Program Director. This is all in an effort to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Tribal buildings are closed to the public, however essential personnel will be available by phone during operation hours of 10 AM – 2 PM unless instructed otherwise by their program Directors.