

WHITE PAPER: Screening for Asymptomatic COVID Carrier Employees

PURPOSE: Asymptomatic/Pre-Symptomatic spread of COVID-19 has been shown to occur and is a one key reason that it is so hard to contain. The goal of this project is to identify and isolate those carriers of COVID w/o symptoms, quarantining their households as well. This will protect the Tribe and Community.

SCOPE: Working with the employee group has multiple advantages: 1) Manageable group size (There are 461 active onsite MIT employees here right now); 2) They have close association with the Tribe and they are a representative group (151 MIT Enrolled, 61 Native, 245 Other) with a double benefit- about half of this group also lives on the reservation; 3) They have the highest risk of having asymptomatic COVID and spreading it to clients, patients, customers and neighbors (They tend to be younger, more exposed, and less likely to show significant symptoms. Take for example MEIHSS caregivers, Residential workers, Elders Program food deliverers, HR that helped with unemployment and clinic staff, etc.). Isolation and quarantine applied to this group now will set the stage for a much healthier early summer for the Tribe and Community. Then, in late June, retesting this group *plus an equal number of their coworker counterparts* returning from furlough will set the stage for a healthier summer and a better restart of governmental operations.

PLAN: Round 1-Start COVID-19 PCR testing ASAP and begin with the highest risk categories of currently active onsite employees such as those mentioned above. In later May expand testing to cover all active onsite employees. Isolate any positives and advise that their families should be quarantined for 14 days. During May train up more contact tracers. Round 2-Then, in late June do this same for this group again and their returning counterparts with significant risks of exposure and spread.

