



TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

4180 HIGHWAY 281
P.O. BOX 900
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA 58316

(701) 477-2600

December 13, 2021

For Immediate Release

As part of the efforts to provide a safe and healthy community, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Government is offering a \$1,000.00 Vaccine Incentive payment to Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal members 18 and older that are fully vaccinated (2 doses of Moderna or Pfizer or 1 dose Johnson and Johnson). Research provides that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness and helps protect those around them. The Tribal Council cares about the health of our community therefore encourage Tribal members to receive their vaccine. We have implemented a two phase approach in order to adequately handle the process, for more information about the two phases, please see attached policy, application, and frequently asked questions documents. Please understand that this is a voluntary incentive and by no means an attempt to try and force anyone to do something they do not want do. This is an attempt to protect our tribal members.

Thank you.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Jamie Azure, Tribal Chairman
And Tribal Council

Craig Lunday, District 1 Council Rep.

Ron Trottier, Sr., District 2 Council Rep.

Lynn Gourneau, District 3 Council Rep.

Blaine 'Slugger' Davis, District 4 Council Rep.

Kenneth Malaterre, District 1 Council Rep.

Jon Jon Keplin, District 2 Council Rep.

Elmer Davis, Jr., District 3 Council Rep.

Chad Counts, District 4 Council Rep.

**TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA
TRIBAL MEMBER VACCINATION INCENTIVE POLICY**

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa 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 who were enrolled as March 11, 2021 and are aged 18 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 were enrolled as of March 11, 2021 and 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 \$1000.00 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.

Because of the number of Tribal Members enrolled in the TMBCI the applications and vaccine incentive distributions will be processed in two phases.

Phase 1 – Applications will be available December 14th for Phase 1 applicants

- All tribal enrolled members who have a physical address located in North Dakota
 - Fully vaccinated using the Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson Vaccines
 - Were enrolled with the TMBC as of March 11, 2021
 - Eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application.

Phase 2

- All tribal enrolled members who have a physical address outside of North Dakota
 - Fully vaccinated using the Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson Vaccines
 - Were enrolled with the TMBC as of March 11, 2021
 - Eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application.

PROCESS:

Tribal Members must apply for funds and show proof of identity such as a tribal enrollment card or state issued ID. Each applicant will be required to sign a release for the Tribe to verify enrollment and verify vaccination data.

Checks will be processed weekly and all checks will be mailed to the address on the application. **NO CHECKS CAN BE PICKED UP-ALL CHECKS WILL BE MAILED.**

Application Dates: December 14, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This is a one-time only incentive.

Applications are available for download online at www.tmchippewa.com . For local residents, the TMBCI has set up 2 locations sites where you can bring your completed application. Applications will be available at these locations.

- Dunseith-Outreach Center- sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily Monday through Thursday
- Belcourt-at the sprung structure-sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily Monday through Thursday

Payments will be processed bi-weekly and mailed according to the following schedule

Application Received by	Verified By	Check Mailed by
December 17, 2021	December 20, 2021	December 22, 2021
December 22, 2021	December 29, 2021	January 3, 2022
January 5, 2022	January 10, 2022	January 13, 2022
January 12, 2022	January 18, 2022	January 20, 2022
January 19, 2022	January 24, 2022	January 27, 2022

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program
Phase One**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the incentive program?

- ❖ All enrolled member who are FULLY vaccinated according to the CDC Guidelines which means two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer Vaccine, or one dose of Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
- ❖ MUST BE 18 years or older at the time of application
- ❖ Phase 1 Resident of North Dakota
- ❖ If you are applying on behalf of someone in which you have Conservatorship, you must include legal documentation that you are the legal guardian.

Why are only ND residents eligible for the incentive?

- ❖ Currently only ND resident applications are being accepted and processed because of the large amount of tribal members who live throughout the world, the consulting team advised the Tribal Council to disburse the incentive in two phase. With Phase 1 being ND Residents over 18 and Phase 2 being all other members.

When will Phase 2 applications be available?

- ❖ February 15th, 2022

How do I apply?

Applications are available for download online at www.tmchippewa.com . For local residents, the TMBCI has set up 2 locations sites where you can bring your completed application.

Where are the location sites?

Applications will be available at these locations.

- Dunseith-Outreach Center
- Belcourt-at the sprung structure

Sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily Monday through Thursday (Belcourt Sprung Structure will close at 4 on Thursdays), Drop Box will be located at the log building next to the Belcourt Headstart.

Can I email the application?

- ❖ Yes, completed applications can be emailed to
 - tm.vaxx@tmbci.org
 - If emailing application you will need to include
 - Completed signed application
 - Verification of Identity-state or tribal issued ID

Can I mail my application?

- ❖ Yes. Completed Applications can be mailed to
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

ARPA: Vaccine Incentive
PO BOX 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

- If mailing application you will need to include:
 - Completed signed application
 - Verification of Identity-state or tribal issued ID

What is the purpose of the incentive program?

- ❖ To increase the vaccination rates for our Tribal Members.

How long will it take to receive my check?

- ❖ Enrollment and vaccination will be verified before any check is processed. **The entire process may take 2 weeks.**

What documentation must I present?

- ❖ Valid Tribal ID and/or Valid state issued ID
- ❖ Completed and signed application

Do I need to include my Vaccine Card?

- ❖ Not at this time, all vaccination records will be verified in the ND vaccine tracking system.

What if my tribal ID has expired?

- ❖ Yes, you can use an expired ID

If I do not have a state issued ID or a Tribal ID?

- ❖ Visit the TM motor vehicle department to receive a new ID
- ❖ Application fee will be waived

Where will I be receiving my check?

- ❖ Your check will be mailed to the address you provide on the application. To mitigate the spread of COVID we will not allow any checks to be picked up at the Tribal office.

Why are vaccinated children aged 5-17 not eligible for the incentive payment?

- ❖ **At this time, TMBCI is seeking legal opinion on providing vaccine incentive payments to children under the age of 18.**

Do I need to have the booster dose to receive the incentive>

- ❖ **No, but it is highly encouraged**

What if I am not vaccinated, can I receive the incentive payment

- ❖ If you choose to get the vaccine, you will need to have received 2 shots of Moderna or Pfizer, or one dose of the Johnson and Johnson.
- ❖ If you choose not to be vaccinated then, NO you are not eligible to receive the incentive.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

PHASE 1 COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program

Enrolled Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (TMBC) members receiving the COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive a onetime \$1,000 incentive stipend from the TMBC. To receive a stipend, complete the application information below and must include a valid state or tribal enrollment photo ID.

Phase 1 – Applications will be available December 14th for Phase 1 applicants

- All tribal enrolled members who have a physical address located in North Dakota
 - Fully vaccinated using the Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson Vaccines
 - Were enrolled with the TMBC as of March 11, 2021
 - Eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application.

All vaccine records and tribal enrollment records will be verified prior to distribution of the eligible benefit. Once approved, a check will be mailed to the address of record listed in the demographic section below, **no checks can be picked up. All fields are required unless otherwise notated.**

Applications must be received by the TMBC on or before **June 30, 2022.**

Applicant Information-PLEASE PRINT or TYPE			
Social Security (needed to process payment)		TMBCI Tribal Enrollment Number	
Applicant Full legal name			
Date of Birth		Maiden name/or other names used	
Full Mailing Address (Street, City, Zip)			
Phone Number		Email Address	

Vaccine Information
Please select the vaccine you received

<input type="checkbox"/> I received two doses of the Moderna vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/> I received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/> I received 1 dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine
I have received a booster dose of <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, which brand did you receive <input type="checkbox"/> Moderna <input type="checkbox"/> Pfizer <input type="checkbox"/> Johnson & Johnson If no, why did you not get the booster dose? <input type="checkbox"/> It hasn't been six months since last dose <input type="checkbox"/> I have chosen not to receive the booster dose <input type="checkbox"/> Unaware of where to receive the booster dose Other: _____	

Signature

By signing this application, you agree and attest to the following: I am the person whose name and personal information appears on this application. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is true and accurate. I understand that if any of the information contained herein which is material is false, is misrepresentation, is intentionally incomplete, or inaccurate may result in denial of your application and or criminal prosecution. It is a violation of TMBCI Code § 1118.04, "Tampering with Public Records", to provide false information to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

Printed Name:	
Signature:	Date:

For Official Use Only	
Date received by the Tribe:	Received by:
TMBCI Enrollment verified? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Verified: _____ Verified by: _____
Vaccine verified? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Verified: _____ Verified by: _____
Vaccine 1 date received: _____	
Vaccine 2 date received: _____	
Booster Dose date received: _____	
Applicant is 18 years or older: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Verified: _____ Verified by: _____
Application approved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Approved/Denied: _____ by: _____
Reason Application denied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did not include a copy of state or Tribal issued photo ID	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Enrolled	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not 18 or older at the time of application	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not fully vaccinated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a Phase 1 resident	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Check #:	Date check mailed: