



Treaty Bison Hunting COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

Yakama Nation Tribal Council Fish & Wildlife Committee

Adopted by Fish & Wildlife Committee Action No. 024-2022-2

These Treaty Bison Hunting COVID-19 Safety Guidelines (“Guidelines”) are adopted by the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Committee (“Committee”) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the Yakama Nation’s annual Treaty bison hunt on open and unclaimed lands in and around Gardiner, MT and West Yellowstone, MT.

The Treaty bison hunt is an important piece of the Yakama Nation’s traditional culture. This season, Yakama Nation members should take additional precautions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and assist the Yakama Nation with implementing a safe and successful hunt.

The Committee strongly recommends that Yakama Nation members participating in the Treaty bison hunt abide by the following Guidelines, as well as any applicable federal, state, or local public health and safety protocols.

1. Yakama Nation members should only travel to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt if they are fully vaccinated.
2. Yakama Nation members who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, dry cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, loss of smell, or body ache, should not travel to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt.
3. Yakama Nation members who have been exposed to COVID-19 and have not subsequently quarantined for at least fourteen (14) days or tested negative for COVID-19 should not travel to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt.
4. Yakama Nation members should take a COVID-19 test to confirm that they are not COVID-19 positive prior to traveling to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt.
5. Yakama Nation members should only travel to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt with individuals who they live with.
6. Yakama Nation members should only travel to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt with individuals who are listed on their bison hunting permit.
7. Yakama Nation members who are over the age of 60, have a compromised immune system, or have underlying medical conditions should not travel to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt unless they are fully vaccinated.
8. Yakama Nation members should check the status of local COVID-19 cases, applicable public health and safety protocols, and hospitality services (including hotels and dining) prior to traveling to Montana to participate in the Treaty

bison hunt.

9. When traveling to Montana to participate in the Treaty bison hunt, Yakama Nation members should take steps to avoid contact with other individuals, such as using take out dining, sending only one individual into a store to buy supplies, and paying for gasoline at the pump.
10. When traveling to Montana and during the Treaty bison hunt, Yakama Nation members should use personal safety protocols to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including covering coughs and sneezes, frequent hand washing, face coverings and masks, and sanitization of possessions.
11. When traveling to Montana and during the Treaty bison hunt, Yakama Nation members should social distance and remain at least six feet away from other individuals, including other hunters, law enforcement officers, and members of the public.
12. Yakama Nation members who experience COVID-19 symptoms during travel to Montana or participation in the Treaty bison hunt should immediately quarantine alone and contact a local medical provider.
13. Yakama Nation members who test positive for COVID-19 during travel to Montana or participation in the Treaty bison hunt should immediately contact the Yakama Nation Wildlife, Range & Vegetation Resources Management Program at (509) 865-5121 ext. 6307 and the Yakama Nation Game Wardens at (509) 865-5121 ext. 4561 so that these offices can properly coordinate regarding the safety of other hunters and law enforcement officers.