



**CARRIE'S
COVID Q&A**
Source: City of Milwaukee Health Department

Question: I've heard a lot on the news lately about mask mandates and capacity limits ending in Milwaukee on June 1st. What does that mean for me?

Answer: Organizations and businesses will be making their own decisions on if they will require masks or limit the number of people in their buildings. Health experts agree that unvaccinated individuals still need to wear a mask and maintain physical distance to help protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus.



COVID-19 Headlines This Week

Monica's
Minute

- Fully vaccinated people can resume activities they did before the pandemic without wearing a mask or physically distancing.
- The CDC recommends that everyone 12 and older should get a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19.
- Your child cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine, including the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- Private schools, day care centers, and camps can decide whether to require students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of returning to school or the facility.
- For public K-12 schools, vaccination requirements are left up to the states.
- Pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 compared to non-pregnant people; If you are pregnant you can receive the COVID-19 vaccine, but there is currently limited data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant people.



MEMORIAL

Day

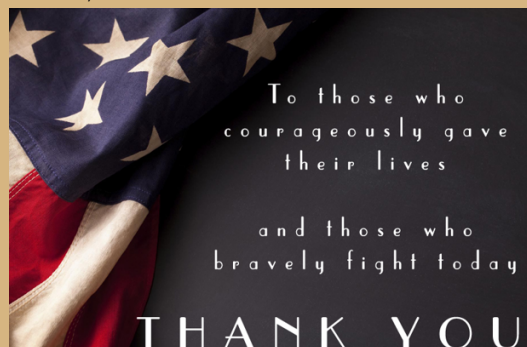


WHAT IS MEMORIAL DAY AND WHY DO WE CELEBRATE IT?

Memorial Day is a Federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The holiday is observed on the last Monday of May.

HOW MANY NATIVE AMERICANS LOST THEIR LIVES DURING WAR?

1. *World War I*: Three thousand to six thousand Native men enlisted and another 6,500 were drafted. About two-thirds served in the infantry, and about five percent of Native combat soldiers were killed, compared to one percent of American forces overall.
2. *World War II*: Forty-four thousand of a total Native American population of 350,000 saw active duty, including nearly 800 women. For this service they earned at least 71 Air Medals, 34 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 51 Silver Stars, 47 Bronze Stars and five Medals of Honor.
3. *Korea*: American forces – including approximately 10,000 American Indian soldiers – along with troops from 15 other nations, fought to prevent a Communist takeover. Some 33,739 American soldiers died in battle, including 194 Native Americans.
4. *Vietnam*: Of the 42,000 American Indians who served in the U.S. armed forces during the Vietnam conflict (1964–75), 90 percent were volunteers. Approximately one of every four eligible Native people served, compared with one of 12 in the general population. Of those, 226 died in action and five received the Medal of Honor.



HOW MANY NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS ARE THERE?

According to the 2010 Census, it is estimated that over 150,000 veterans identified as American Indian and Alaska Native alone. The US Department of Defense estimates there are currently over 24,000 active duty Native service members in the US Armed Forces. Since September 11th, 2001, almost 19% of all Native Americans have served in the Armed Forces – in comparison to an average of 14% of all other ethnicities.

(Source: <https://www.ncai.org/>)



The 45th Infantry Division



SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official Federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. (Source: www.history.com)
- During World War II the 45th Infantry Division - Army unit (known as The Thunderbird Division) had perhaps the greatest concentration of Indian soldiers. The division experienced 511 days of combat.
- Indians were scattered throughout the military in integrated units serving as: pilots, navigators, gunners in aircorps, machinists, and more.
- Native Navajo language was used as a secret code during WWII.

“ *I found out I am not only fighting for the little bitty piece of land I talk about, [or] my immediate family.*

I found out I was fighting for all the Indian people, all the people of the United States. ”

SAMUEL TSO (NAVAJO), UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**In the round dance of life,
every vaccination brings
us one step closer to a
world where no one
suffers or dies from
vaccine-preventable
diseases.**



Art by Joelle
Joyner

**VACCINES BRING US
A STEP CLOSER**

JOHNS HOPKINS
CENTER FOR AMERICAN
INDIAN HEALTH

How to Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend Safely

1. If you are vaccinated, you are protected and can enjoy your Memorial Day.
2. If you are not vaccinated, the CDC guidance has *not* changed for you; you remain at risk for infection. You still need to mask and take other precautions.
3. Health officials advise people to keep as many gatherings as possible outdoors so people can keep their distance.
4. If you are traveling, do your research on the destination you are traveling to and see what COVID-19 guidelines and protocols are in place.
5. Continue to follow the current CDC guidelines as well.



Today's Little Chuckle

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU KEEP A SKUNK FROM SMELLING?



ANSWER: HOLD ITS NOSE!

