WHEREAS, on May 21, 2020, the Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (“MBCI” or the “Tribe”) approved Ordinance 16-VVVV, which modified Title XIII of the Choctaw Tribal Code by adding the Emergency Health Powers Code; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Health Powers Code authorizes the Tribal Chief to declare a State of Public Health Emergency in response to an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by an Infectious and/or Communicable Disease and poses a high probability of widespread illness or a large number of deaths or serious or long-term disability among humans; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2020, I declared a State of Public Health Emergency in response to the ongoing public health threat posed by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, the State of Public Health Emergency initially declared on May 21, 2020 has since been extended seven times; and

WHEREAS, I find it necessary to declare an Eighth Extension of the State of Public Health Emergency as there continues to be instances of community transmission of COVID-19 on MBCI tribal lands, with the Choctaw Health Center reporting 144 active cases of COVID-19 among persons eligible to receive healthcare services as of January 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this Eighth Extension of the State of Public Health Emergency shall expire thirty (30) days from the date of issuance, unless renewed as provided by the Emergency Health Powers Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cyrus Ben, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, pursuant to the authority vested in me in the Emergency Health Powers Code, find it necessary to declare an Eighth Extension of the State of Public Health Emergency initially declared on May 21, 2020. All persons authorized to take certain action under Title XIII of the Choctaw Tribal Code shall continue to do so expeditiously to prevent the further spread of COVID-19; and I further declare that all prior orders issued under the State of Emergency Proclamation initially declared on March 15, 2020, pursuant to Ordinance 50-A are a part of this State of Public Health Emergency and shall remain in full force and effect.

CYRUS BEN, TRIBAL CHIEF

DATE

“Choctaw Self-Determination”