



NOV 18 2020

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to issue the Indian Health Service (IHS) COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan November 2020 (IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan).

The IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan is for the IHS, Tribal Health Programs, and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) that choose to receive COVID-19 vaccine from the IHS. For Tribal Health Programs and UIOs that choose to receive vaccine from the state, the IHS encourages you to reach out to your respective state for information about their vaccine distribution plan.

The IHS received feedback from Tribal Consultation, Urban Confer, information sessions, and letters regarding COVID-19 vaccination planning for Indian Country, an effort initiated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS Vaccine Task Force developed an IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan (draft plan) based on this initial feedback and the information available to the IHS at the time. On October 14, 2020, the IHS initiated a 7-day Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the draft plan. The IHS received written comments from Tribes, Tribal Organizations, UIOs, and Areas.

The IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan is informed by all the feedback and federal guidance received to date, a tribal consultation and urban confer summary report will be issued separately. The IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan includes additional information about the IHS vaccine distribution process and requirements. The IHS Vaccine Task Force will continue to adapt the distribution planning process as new information and federal guidance evolves. In addition, IHS is working to determine what funds are available and authorized for the purpose of administering the vaccine, including to non-beneficiaries, and will be issuing guidance on those questions in the future. The IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan is available on the IHS Web site at <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/vaccine/>.

We will continue to issue vaccine related updates when available. If you have any questions, please contact RADM Francis Frazier, Lead, IHS Vaccine Task Force, by telephone at (301) 443-0222 or by e-mail at francis.frazier@ihs.gov.

Thank you for your valuable input on this process. We remain committed to ensuring a COVID-19 vaccine is effectively delivered to American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Sincerely,

/RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA/
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Director

Enclosure: IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan November 2020