

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) remains committed to ensuring that Tribal nations have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine. HHS values Tribal leaders' rapid and robust input as we work together on a significantly accelerated timeline. To that end, we understand many of the concerns that Tribes have shared with us over the past few days in meeting today's deadline for determining COVID-19 vaccine distribution. As announced on today's national Webinar hosted by the National Indian Health Board, Operation Warp Speed has approved a one week extension for Tribes with healthcare facilities to determine their vaccine distribution preference.

That means that Tribes with healthcare facilities now have until **November 6th** to contact IHS if they would like to be included in IHS' distribution or contact their State health authority if they want to be included in the state distribution. We know that this is still a tight deadline but it is absolutely critical that this information be received by November 6th in order to ensure equitable COVID-19 Vaccine access for Tribes as soon as a COVID-19 vaccine is available. HHS also recognizes that if and when additional vaccine candidates are approved and manufacturing is increased, additional flexibilities in distribution may occur. However, in order to increase readiness at all levels and ensure immediate access, Tribes need to submit their decision by November 6th.

Tribes are encouraged to reach out to their state health authority and their IHS Area Office COVID Vaccine Point of Contact to better understand the details of their COVID-19 plan to help make this decision based on the information available to date. For general questions or concerns the CDC's Federal Entities Planning Team can be contacted at CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response VTF Federal Entities Planning TM <eocevent474@cdc.gov>.

We greatly appreciate all the recommendations and feedback that Tribes have shared throughout the Vaccine Planning process and we look forward to continued partnership and collaboration.

Indian Health Service Area Vaccine Point of Contacts

- Alaska – Evangelyn (Angel) Dotomain - evangelyn.dotomain@ihs.gov
- Albuquerque - CAPT Wil Darwin – Wil.darwin@ihs.gov
- Bemidji - Melissa Opsahl – Melissa.opsahl@ihs.gov
- Billings - Janice Roth – Janice.roth@ihs.gov and Angela Trout - angela.troutt@ihs.gov
- California - Rachel Harvey - Rachel.Harvey@IHS.gov
- Great Plains - Dayle Knutson – dayle.knutson@ihs.gov and Brent Rohlfs – brent.rohlfs@ihs.gov
- Nashville - Nathan Wyatt - Nathan.Wyatt@ihs.gov
- Navajo - Sherri Helton - sherri.helton@ihs.gov
- Oklahoma City - CAPT Brian Wren - brian.wren@ihs.gov
- Phoenix - CDR Loretta Haven-Loretta.haven@ihs.gov
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- Tucson - Dr. Rodrigo Villar–Rodrigo.villar@ihs.gov

Tribal Affairs Team

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