



MAY 4 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of efforts to develop a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) template between Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) and the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Following input received during the 2007 Department of Health and Human Services Tribal consultation session, a TEC DSA template was developed to standardize data sharing agreements between TECs and their respective IHS Area Offices and ensure regulatory compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Privacy Act.

The DSA template provides access by TECs to de-identified data from IHS Epidemiology Data Mart/National Data Warehouse for public health surveillance purposes and enables Tribe-specific reporting on community health status.

The Agency has initiated a number of Tribal consultation processes to solicit input from Tribes on basic principles of data stewardship and management. Thank you for your comments and submissions in response to the January 24, 2011 Tribal Leader Letter, the July 6, 2011 Tribal Consultation Summit, and the March 13, 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit. We have incorporated your comments into the enclosed TEC DSA template (see enclosure).

This TEC DSA template is for use as a starting point for negotiations between TECs and their respective IHS Area Offices on data sharing related to the IHS Epidemiology Data Mart/National Data Warehouse. I encourage you or your staff to meet with TEC leadership to address any additional concerns arising from the data sharing process. Based on the input received to date, we plan to initiate future consultations and discussions on other types of data sharing arrangements and agreements.

Thank you for your guidance and recommendations.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosure: TEC DSA Template