Our Program’s Mission:
“Through shared decision-making, we will champion the systems change necessary to create vital, healthy tribal communities by preventing environmentally related diseases and injury through environmental health practices”

DEHS Program Components:
General Environmental Health
- Food safety, Pools/spas/water parks, Solid waste & wastewater management, Environmental Sustainability, Vector-borne disease prevention, and more.

Institutional Environmental Health
- Healthcare facilities, schools, jails, residential care facilities, Radiation protection, Dosimetry, Indoor air Quality, Emergency management

Injury Prevention
- Epidemiology, Coalition Development, Training, Project Development, Advocacy, Etc.
Available Training:
- IHS Food Handlers Training -
  https://www.ihs.gov/foodhandler/
- ServSafe Manager/Instructor Courses
- OSHA 10- & 30-Hour Courses
- Housekeeping/Infection Control Training for Healthcare Personnel
- Environmental Health and Safety Training for Head Start and Childcare Personnel
- More available via the IHS Environmental Health Support Center -
  https://www.ihs.gov/ehsc/

Special Project Awards:
The Bemidji Area IHS, Division of Environmental Health Services, focuses on assisting tribes in developing their capacity to implement public health strategies throughout their communities. Currently, DEHS is providing special project funding, up to $10,000, for projects that align with DEHS priorities. As of 2021, the DEHS funding priorities are:
- Environmental Sustainability
- Injury Prevention
Requests for proposals (RFP’s) are generally released at the end of each calendar year, and are due back to DEHS within the first couple months of the next calendar year. If you would like to be contacted when the RFP’s are released, please contact CAPT Timothy Duffy or our District Environmental Health Specialists (see below).

Federal Codes & Standards Utilized During DEHS Surveys:
- FDA 2017 Food Code
- 29 CFR 1910 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) General Industry Regulations
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Codes & Standards
- Head Start Performance Standards – DHHS Administration for Children & Families
- Caring for Our Children: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education – DHHS Administration for Children & Families
- Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) Best Practices
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Standards
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – 2018 Model Aquatic Health Code

Contact Us:
Bemidji Area Office
CAPT Timothy Duffy, REHS/RS, MPH Bemidji Area DEHS Director
Tim.duffy@ihs.gov; (218) 444-0503

Minnesota District Office (Minnesota Tribes)
Connie Giroux, REHS/RS, CP-FS, HHS
MDO District Environmental Health Specialist
Connie.giroux@ihs.gov; (218) 556-2372

Rhinelander District Office (Wisconsin and Michigan Tribes)
CDR William Crump, REHS/RS, CP-FS, MPH
RDO District Environmental Health Officer
William.crump@ihs.gov; (715) 365-5112