DEHS Directors’ Meeting: 02/04/21
Meeting recording available: https://ihs.cosocloud.com/pyu8nfeeq4az4/

Next conference call April 01, 2021 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska: Denman Ondelacy  Nashville: Kit Grosch
Albuquerque: Carrie Oyster  Navajo: Not on call
Bemidji: Tim Taylor  Oklahoma: Danny Walters
Billings: Darcy Merchant  Phoenix: Kenny Hicks
California: Carolyn Garcia  Portland: Chris Fish
Great Plains: Chris Allen  Tucson: Travis Bowser

Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson
Rockville: Kelly Taylor, Martin Smith, Holly Billie, Charles Woodlee, Mike Reed, Molly Madson, Stephen Piontkowski

1. Director’s Welcome and Update (Kelly Taylor)
   a. Thank you for joining today & for everything you’re doing in response to COVID-19
   b. DEHS program/strategic planning should be conducted to prevent program fragmentation
      i. Please share thoughts & ideas on this topic with Kelly
   c. Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award – 2020
      Congratulations LT George Chung, Phoenix Area
      i. Bemidji Area Nominee: LT Francis Park
      ii. Great Plains Area Nominee: LT Justin Bunn
      iii. Phoenix Area Nominee: LT George Chung

2. Area Highlights
   COVID-19
   What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
   What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
   Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?

   a. Alaska – no report
   b. Albuquerque
      i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
         • 75% (2 employees decline & 1 new employee on-boarding)
      ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
         • IEH staff: <5%
• EH staff: 90% (25% of that in-person)
  iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
  • Filling 2 DEHO vacancies
  • Filling IHS ICS helpful to fulfill deployment requests

c. Bemidji
  i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
     • 90%
  ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
     • 85-90%
  iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
     • None

d. Billings
  i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
     • 83%
  ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
     • 80%
  iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
     • Will EHSC provide online/virtual EH, IEH, & injury prevention training that is needed for new staff?

  e. California
  i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
     • 50%
  ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
     • 80%
  iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
     • None

f. Great Plains
  i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
     • 53%
  ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
     • 30-35%
  iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
     • None
g. Nashville
   i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 0%
   ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
      • 10%
   iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • None

h. Navajo – Not on call (updates submitted via email)
   i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 90%
   ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
      • 50%
   iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • List of Commissioned Corps applicants that may be eligible for DEHO vacancy

i. Oklahoma City
   i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 60%
   ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
      • 70%
   iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • None

j. Phoenix
   i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 91%(2 employees declined)
   ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
      • Area Office staff: 10-20%
      • SU/District staff: 50-75%
   iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • Recruiting an applicant pool for another pending round of vacancies at field offices
k. Portland
   i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 100%
   ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
      • 25%
   iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • Recruiting an applicant pool for another pending round of vacancies at field offices
      • Training from EHSC for new staff & tribal partners

l. Tucson
   i. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 50%
   ii. What percentage of staff’s time is spent doing program work in the communities NOT related to COVID-19? Like food safety, clean drinking water, injury prevention, WNV, RMSF, etc?
      • 10-20%
   iii. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • None

m. EHSC
   i. Response to question from Billings Area, Will EHSC provide online/virtual EH, IEH, & injury prevention training that is needed for new staff?
      • Revised Intro to IP course is being piloted as a virtual course this year (pilots will be May & August 2021)
      • Several challenges to overcome to be able to offer more & effective virtual training courses
   ii. What percent of your staff is currently vaccinated for COVID-19?
      • 60%
   iii. 80-90% of Jeff’s time is spent on COVID-19
   iv. Are there any other concerns or issues that HQ can help you with?
      • Inform EHSC how they may be able to assist w program/strategic planning

3. HQ Announcements
   a. DEHS Performance Measure 2016-2020
      i. SurveyMonkey due February 26
   b. DEHS Performance Measure 2021-2025
      i. Guidance document forthcoming
   c. DEHS Award Nominations 2020
      i. 2020 Gary J. Gefroh Health and Safety Award; nominations due to CAPT Charles Woodlee by 12 February 2021
      ii. 2020 Rick Smith Injury Prevention Award; nominations due to CAPT Holly Billie by 12 February 2021
d. Injury prevention (Holly Billie)
   i. IP Specialist meeting was on 02 Feb, please reach out to your Area IP representative for more info
   ii. Future online training course
      - SNAP being revised & offered as an online course
      - Transportation safety course for Head Start
   iii. TIPCAP
      - 27 sites awarded: 10 Part 2s; 17 Part 1s
      - Kick-off meeting 25 February

e. IEH (Charles Woodlee)
   i. I-STAR
      - Thank you to Area IEH staff for work on the annual OSHA 300A report
   ii. NIOSH Data Analysis Collaboration
      - Analysis on worker COVID-1 data
      - Initial phase of project (e.g. data sharing agreement)
   iii. Annual IHS safety report to HHS is being worked on now; may tap IEH staff for assistance

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