



# Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

## DEHS Directors' Meeting: 02/04/21

Meeting recording available; <https://ihs.cosocloud.com/pyu8nfeq4az4/>

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

**Alaska:** Denman Ondelacy  
**Albuquerque:** Carrie Oyster  
**Bemidji:** Tim Taylor  
**Billings:** Darcy Merchant  
**California:** Carolyn Garcia  
**Great Plains:** Chris Allen

**Nashville:** Kit Grosch  
**Navajo:** *Not on call*  
**Oklahoma:** Danny Walters  
**Phoenix:** Kenny Hicks  
**Portland:** Chris Fish  
**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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