



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 08/06/20

Meeting recording available; <https://ihs.cosocloud.com/psphz8vthfh/>

Next conference call October 01, 2020 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Nashville:	Kit Grosch
Albuquerque:	Brian Hroch, Sam Frank	Navajo:	Donna Gilbert
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Oklahoma:	Danny Walters
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Phoenix:	Vince Garcia
California:	<i>Not on call</i>	Portland:	Chris Fish
Great Plains:	Tim Wildcat	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 all you do and your hard work
 - i. The contributions from DEHS are recognized and appreciated
- b. [National Indian Gaming Commission](#) (NIGC)
 - i. Kelly/Martin have weekly calls with them
 - ii. NIGC [Model COVID-19 Infectious Diseases Prevention Plan](#) was recently posted on [their website](#) for gaming operations to adopt
 1. Notify Kelly or Martin if you see revisions are needed to the plan
 - iii. Template [reopening plan](#) on [their website](#)
- c. BIE schools reopening is focus of our call today
 - i. Kelly working with DOI and BIE regularly
 - ii. Their reopening task force and plan is being drafted
 1. Kelly is on the strategy team and ensuring the reopening plan includes the appropriate EH content and appreciates your input and updates today
- d. These recent NIGC and BIE collaborations are an opportunity for us to bring to them longstanding issues and challenges we've experienced in the respective establishments
- e. SFC's Navajo Nation Water Access Mission
 - i. SFC using CARES funds and have been deploying SFC staff this summer (4 teams deployed to date)
 - ii. Design and construction to be completed in September 2020



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- iii. Request for EHOs to deploy for 31 day rotations in mid-September to mid-December
 - 1. Commissioned Officers only & will receive CCHQ deployment credit
 - 2. CAPT David Harvey plans to reach out to Area DEHS Directors
 - 3. Teams made of 2-3 EH staff + 1 ENG per team
 - 4. Roles: help homeowners and Chapters understand how to use the new systems
- f. Welcome CDR Chris Fish, Director, DEHS, Portland Area

2. Area Highlights

School reopening

Are you working on reopening schools?

Are any currently open?

If not, what is their timeline for reopening?

Please describe the resources your area is using for reopening BIE funded/BIE operated, BIE funded/Tribally operated or other schools?

Is your Area experiencing any resistance to accessing BIE operated schools?

If so, please provide the name of school(s)

Casino issue

Provide any updates (Best Practices/Challenges/etc.)

A [summary of the Area responses](#) follows the Area and HQ highlights portions of the minutes.

- a. Alaska – *Not on call*
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
- c. Bemidji
 - i. Other COVID-19
 - 1. Collaborating with PH Area on annual Head Start EH&S In-Service Training module to include a session on COVID-19
 - 2. Wrote *Protocols for Distancing and Focused Food Safety Assessments* intended to assist DEHS personnel safely conduct focused/targeted, risk-based, food service sanitation surveys; the protocol identifies measures staff will take to mitigate COVID-19 risks, a process on conducting truncated, but targeted risk-based assessments of prioritized food service establishments
- d. Billings
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
- e. California – *Not on call*



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- f. Great Plains
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
- g. Nashville
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. New EHS reported 03 August
- h. Navajo
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
- i. Oklahoma City
 - i. Other COVID-19
 - 1. COVID+ cases continue to rise
 - 2. [FDA updates on hand sanitizers consumers should not use](#)
 - ii.
- j. Phoenix
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
 - ii. Other COVID-19
 - 1. Wrote *Conducting Field Visits during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Guidance for Phoenix Area IHS Division of Environmental Health Services Personnel* intended to assist personnel in safely planning for field visits
 - 2. Provided COVID-19 related trainings recently
 - 3. Collaborating with BE Area on annual Head Start EH&S In-Service Training module to include a session on COVID-19
- k. Portland
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. Shawn Blackshear transferring to NWPAlHB on 01Sept which has three EH staff
- l. Tucson
 - i. See [summary of the Area responses](#)
- m. EHSC
 - i. Other COVID-19
 - 1. Jeff Dickson remains in Planning Section of Area ICS
 - ii. All EH related items may be sent to Jeff until the two EH vacancies filled
 - iii. Planning to offer course on conducting webinars/online training



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3. HQ Announcements

- a. Injury prevention (Holly Billie)
 - i. EPI Fellowship Symposium
 - 1. When: 28-30 September 2020 (2-3 hours/day)
 - 2. Where: Virtual
 - ii. TIPCAP
 - 1. Automatic 12 month no cost extension for all sites
 - 2. [NOFO for 2020-2024 cycle announced](#) (applications due 01 October); recorded [NOFO webinar](#) and helpful docs and [FAQs](#) on [IP website](#)
 - iii. Recent IP meetings completed
 - 1. Annual IPS
 - 2. Internal
 - 3. Networking
 - 4. Contact your [Area IP rep](#) for more info
- b. IEH (Charles Woodlee)
 - i. Residency
 - 1. Brandon Parker working on thesis
 - 2. Announcement for 2021-2023 cycle TBA this fall
 - ii. Chapter 9 Policy Revisions
 - 1. Pending final review by HHS
 - iii. WebCident Replacement (iSTAR)
 - 1. Half of all Area now live
 - 2. Migration of historical data expected around 01 October
 - 3. Forthcoming: more job aides on use of queries and reports

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On 06 August 2020 the Area DEHS Directors discussed their programs' involvement and challenges related to reopening schools and working with tribal gaming operations. The table below summarizes that discussion.

Area	Are you working on reopening schools?	Are any currently open?	If not, is there a timeframe for reopening?	Resources used?	Any resistance to accessing BIE operated schools?	Gaming updates
Summary	Yes Many Areas providing TA & guidance especially as school plan to reopen (includes Head Starts & childcare centers)	Most Areas reported no, & a few Areas reported yes & no depending on the school district (e.g. public vs. private)	Many reopening in Aug or September -Many employing distance learning or hybrid model	-CDC -EPA -Caring for Our Children -AIHA -State & county plans	Primarily no, except for a few locations	Many varied scenarios across Indian Country -Some open w interventions in place -Some closed -Unique innovations & lessons learned noted below
AK						
AQ	Yes -Providing TA & guidance on reopening	No	Delayed start; open later in September as distance learning or hybrid model		No	-Some establishments closed -Some establishments operating at reduced capacity (e.g. 25%) -Some only open to state residents -Some screening at facility entry (temperature checks, collecting name & contact info for possible contact tracing as needed) -Unique innovation: When a guest's gaming ["players"] card removed from machine, staff notified the guest left & staff immediately clean machine -Use of apps to reserve dining tables, or an app HR uses to monitor staff -Use of dedicated staff to monitor & enforce COVID-19 related policies on site



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Area	Are you working on reopening schools?	Are any currently open?	If not, is there a timeframe for reopening?	Resources used?	Any resistance to accessing BIE operated schools?	Gaming updates
BE	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Providing TA & guidance to reopening (includes Head Starts & childcare centers); thanks CA Area who provided documents to work from -Collaborating w PHX Area on annual Head Start EH&S In-Service Training module to include a session on COVID-19 -TA to update schools' COVID-19 response plans -Lesson learned: effective approach to deliver public health messaging to school staff is via telephone b/c email accounts may become inaccessible (e.g. full in-box, deleted, or reset) 	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 BIE operated summer school -2 BIE operated summer feeding programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Routine opening dates in early September -School districts using local case rates to determine reopening strategy & dates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CDC -EPA -Caring for Our Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rarely but sometimes -Need for enhanced communications among school, BIE, & DEHS (at least inspection scheduling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Many best practices in gaming facilities -Unique innovation: many went smoke free -Reopening plans include response when COVID-19+ case identified -Challenge: Physical distancing in gaming operations is difficult to enforce -Challenge: Promotions are on the rise & entice more guests to come into gaming establishments
BI	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DEHS inspection of schools is a priority 	No	<p>Mid/late-August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In-person, distance learning or hybrid model 	<p>BI Area Sanitarian Dashboard will be used to schedule inspections & note if school is COVID-19 compliant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Issuing <i>Certificate of Inspection</i> -Exploring options for virtual inspection tools 	Not that we're aware of	Many remain closed
CA						
GP	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -TA to various school boards 	No	<p>Late-August/Early-September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CDC -State plans 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Physical dividers between guest chairs at gaming tables or between machines -Some establishments operating at reduced capacity (e.g. 25%) -Some screening at facility entry (temperature checks) -Some remain closed (e.g. they may house COVID+ cases in their hotels or as alternate care sites)



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Area	Are you working on reopening schools?	Are any currently open?	If not, is there a timeframe for reopening?	Resources used?	Any resistance to accessing BIE operated schools?	Gaming updates
NA	Yes -Providing TA & guidance to reopening	No	Don't think they will open soon	-CDC	No	Many remain closed
NV	Yes -Participate on calls w tribe & CDC - TA to BIE, public, & mission schools -Reviewed plans for BIE schools	No	Opened on 03AUG -Distance learning only	-CDC -EPA -Caring for Our Children -State plans		Remain closed -Tribal curfew in place until 17AUG
OK	Yes -BIE school, Anadarko, OK, as needed & per their request	No	-BIE school, Anadarko, OK: Delayed start; likely in alignment with local jurisdiction -Head Starts & other school reopening dates TBD	-CDC -EPA -Caring for Our Children -State plans	No	-All are open -DEHS conducting EH&S focused surveys
PH	Yes -Reviewing reopening plans -Conducting virtual EH&S trainings; includes session on COVID-19 -Collaborating w BE Area on annual Head Start EH&S In-Service Training module to include a session on COVID-19	-No BIE schools -Public & county schools starting to open	-BIE Sherman Indian School; virtual for 1 st semester -Public & county schools distance learning or hybrid	-CDC -EPA -Caring for Our Children -State plans -AIHA reopening guidance for schools (K-12) -FDA for food/feeding programs	Some in Eastern District	-Some opened in May (50% capacity) -Others remain closed b/c tribes are closed or they may serve as alternate care sites -Provide TA & consultation as needed -Conduct virtual inspections or check-ins (e.g. establishment sends documents/logs, photos or videos of conditions to DEHS)
PO	No	No	TBD	-CDC -AIHA	No	



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TU	-Not to 638 establishments; tribal EHS providing service -Yes to Head Starts	-Yes; started 03Aug -BIE schools closed -Charter school closed	BIE schools to reopen 16Sept (in-person)	-CDC -EPA -Caring for Our Children -AIHA -State & county plans	No	All open -Surveyed by tribal EHS -Physical dividers between guest chairs at gaming tables or between machines -No valet parking -Smoking only in designated areas -Room service all single-service items -Face covering requirement for staff
EHSC						
HQ	RADM Kelly Taylor working with DOI & BIE regularly -Their reopening task force and plan is being drafted -RADM Taylor is on the strategy team & ensuring the reopening plan includes the appropriate EH content					National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) -RADM Kelly Taylor/CDR Smith have weekly calls with them -NIGC Model COVID-19 Infectious Diseases Prevention Plan recently posted on their website for gaming operations to adopt -Template reopening plan on their website