



NOV 06 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on Indian Health Service (IHS) COVID-19 vaccination planning efforts.

The IHS is releasing the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Program Tribal Health Program Agreement – Vaccines Coordinated through IHS* (enclosed). This Agreement meets the requirements of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program for Tribal Health Programs that choose to receive vaccine through the IHS. Tribal Health Programs that are permitted to execute this Agreement are defined at 25 U.S.C. § 1603(25). The CDC's *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations* explains that Tribal Health Programs have two options to receive COVID-19 vaccine, from the state or local jurisdiction, or from the IHS. The CDC Playbook is available on the CDC Web site at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim-Playbook.pdf>.

The enclosed Agreement includes Section A: *CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Legal Agreement* and Section B: *CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Profile Information*. For Tribal Health Programs that choose to receive vaccine through the IHS, each Tribal Health Program is required to sign Section A and provide the information for each hospital and clinic in Section B. The Agreement also includes program requirements for appropriate vaccine distribution, management, and monitoring. Key elements include CDC and IHS reporting requirements and the flexibility for Tribal Health Programs to define immunization priority groups that meet the intent of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations.

If you choose to receive COVID-19 vaccine from the IHS, please review and sign the enclosed Agreement with Sections A and B completed. **Please send the completed, signed agreement to your IHS Area Vaccine Point of Contact (enclosed) by November 15, 2020.**

Questions or concerns may be directed to your respective IHS Area Director, or to RADM Francis Frazier, Lead, IHS Vaccine Task Force, by telephone at (301) 443-0222.

The IHS will continue to share updates on COVID-19 vaccine planning and distribution when available. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,
/RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA/
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Director

Enclosures: 1. CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Tribal Health Program Agreement –
Vaccines Coordinated through IHS
2. IHS Area Vaccine Point of Contact