



SEP 25 2020

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is initiating Urban Confer to seek input from Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Leaders on COVID-19 vaccination planning for Indian Country. This Urban Confer complements the state planning process that began last week with the publication of the CDC's **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations**, available on the CDC Web site at: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf. This playbook guides Immunization Program Awardees (e.g., state and local jurisdictions with routine immunization programs) in planning and operationalizing their COVID-19 vaccination response.

Routine systems for vaccine delivery are providing the foundation for COVID-19 vaccination planning. To ensure that a COVID-19 vaccine is effectively delivered to urban Indian communities, we are seeking Urban Confer. This will enable UIO Leaders to express their preference for how a COVID-19 vaccine is distributed to their communities, whether through state and local jurisdictions, or through the IHS, and how they can support this effort.

In addition to conversations with jurisdictions and the IHS that may be occurring at the local level, UIO Leaders will have several forums to discuss vaccination planning for distribution and allocation, including the following regional conference calls:

- September 28, 2020; 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., (ET): HHS Regions 1, 2, 3, 4
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 433 5800
- September 28, 2020; 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., (ET): HHS Region 5
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 237 2009
- September 29, 2020; 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., (ET): HHS Region 6
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 978 7009
- September 29, 2020; 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., (ET): HHS Regions 7, 8
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 692 6624
- October 1, 2020; 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., (ET): HHS Region 9
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 650 2728
- October 1, 2020; 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., (ET): HHS Region 10
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 442 6687

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In addition to feedback during conference calls, I also invite you to provide input and recommendations in writing by submitting your comments to urbanconfer@ihs.gov.

The deadline for written comments on this Urban Confer is Friday, October 9, 2020.

The success of a COVID-19 vaccine program for Tribes and urban Indian communities depends on the strong partnership between the Federal Government, Tribes, and UIO Leaders. We look forward to continuing this partnership as we plan for COVID-19 vaccine distribution and allocation.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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Director