



November 9, 2020

Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders:

As we continue to make progress on COVID-19 vaccine development and eventual distribution, I wanted to share with you the mechanics of how an FDA-approved COVID vaccine will be administered. Recently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [released a 32-Question and Answer document on vaccine allocation and distribution](#) that provides the latest information. In addition, HHS has contracted with McKesson Corporation to produce, store and distribute [vaccine ancillary supply kits](#) on behalf of the Strategic National Stockpile. Each kit will contain enough supplies to administer up to 100 doses of vaccine and will include:

1. Needles (various sizes for the population served by the ordering vaccination provider)
2. Syringes
3. Alcohol prep pads
4. Surgical masks and face shields for vaccinators
5. COVID-19 vaccination record cards for vaccine recipients
6. Needle information card

This morning, Pfizer published data showing its coronavirus vaccine may be more than 90% effective. This is exciting news that demonstrates that the whole-of-America approach is working. Back in July, HHS [announced](#) an agreement with Pfizer Inc. for large-scale production and nationwide delivery of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States following the vaccine's successful manufacture and approval. The agreement also allows the U.S. government to acquire an additional 500 million doses. The federal government will own the 100 million doses of vaccine initially produced as a result of this agreement, and Pfizer will deliver the doses in the United States if the product receives [Emergency Use Authorization](#) or licensure from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as outlined in FDA [guidance](#), after completing demonstration of safety and efficacy in a large Phase 3 clinical trial.

On October 30, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also released the second version of the [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations](#). This document remains iterative and will be updated with the newest information as it becomes

available. Of particular note, are some updates regarding Tribal engagement in state jurisdiction planning operations.

On October 29, with support from HHS, we [announced an additional allocation of 150,000 Abbott BinaxNOW](#) COVID-19 Card rapid point-of-care COVID-19 tests. These tests will support additional testing in tribal communities where there have been recent increases in new cases and hospitalizations related to the ongoing outbreak.

On November 6, IHS issued [Dear Tribal Leader](#) and [Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader](#) letters to provide an update on the IHS COVID-19 vaccination planning efforts. The letters provide more information about participation in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccination Program, including the agreements for program participation. IHS is releasing these agreements for tribal health programs and urban Indian organizations that choose to receive vaccine through IHS.

1. [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Tribal Health Program Agreement – Vaccines Coordinated through IHS](#)
2. [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Urban Indian Organization Agreement – Vaccines Coordinated through IHS](#)

Tribal health programs and UIOs that choose to receive COVID-19 vaccine from IHS are requested to review and sign the agreements by **November 15, 2020** and submit to their respective [Area Vaccine Point of Contact](#).

And finally, the IHS COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force is conducting a survey to assist in planning efforts for COVID-19 vaccine allocation to healthcare personnel. If you ***work in a federal, tribal or urban healthcare facility (including paid staff, contractors, students and volunteers)***, we encourage you to please take the survey. The [survey](#) includes questions regarding your views about receiving COVID-19 vaccine. The [survey](#) will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Individual responses are anonymous and will not identify any individual.

Please stay safe and let's all continue to take responsible actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 and follow the three Ws: **Wear** a mask, **Wash** your hands, and **Watch** your distance.

I encourage you to visit our [IHS coronavirus webpage](#) for the latest information.

Respectfully,

Michael

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Below is general information on various topics that could be of interest to you and your community. Web links are included where you can find more information on each topic.

Testing/Supplies/Contact Tracing Resources:

1. [CDC Updated Information on Clinical Management of COVID-19](#)
2. [CDC Updated COVID-19 Guidance on Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, or Caring for Children](#)
3. [CDC Fact Sheet to help Guide Tribes with Burial and Funeral](#)
4. [CDC COVID-19 Contact Tracer Trainings](#)
5. [CDC Updated General Information on Vaccines](#)
6. [CDC Benefits of Getting COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
7. [CDC Myths and Misconceptions about COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
8. [CDC Updated FAQ on COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
9. [CDC Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19](#)
10. [CDC Updated Information for Children and Youth to stay Healthy](#)
11. [CDC Updated Information on Community Mitigation](#)