Indian Health Service
All Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders Call

FEBRUARY 9, 2023
IHS Update

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DIRECTOR
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
Chief Medical Officer Update

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Strategy 1 - Prevent

• Get vaccinated, get your bivalent (Omicron) booster
• Getting vaccinated is the key to decreasing the impact of COVID-19
• There is an increase in flu this season
• There is an early increase in cases of RSV
• Flu vaccinations are available!!!!
### American Indian/Alaska Native Vaccination Rates

Data reflective of 1/10/2023 for I/T/Us within the IHS jurisdiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AI/AN Age Group</th>
<th>Received at Least 1 Dose</th>
<th>Primary Series Complete</th>
<th>Completed Primary Series + Bivalent Doses Administered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 65+</td>
<td>94.5% (140,054)</td>
<td>71.7% (106,243)</td>
<td>32.4% (34,459)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18+</td>
<td>79.2% (675,525)</td>
<td>58% (494,409)</td>
<td>21.9% (108,277)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 12-17</td>
<td>51.2% (74,815)</td>
<td>40% (58,469)</td>
<td>15.8% (9,249)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5-11</td>
<td>25.6% (46,349)</td>
<td>18.6% (33,640)</td>
<td>13.6% (4,585)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;5</td>
<td>9.1% (10,112)</td>
<td>Not Validated</td>
<td>(91)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I/T/U Vaccination Activities:

- Immunization focus at I/T/Us:
  - Influenza vaccines
  - Routine immunizations for all ages
  - COVID Vaccines
    - ~ 17,000 doses administered in December & January
    - Primary COVID vaccine series for all ages
    - Bivalent vaccines for 6 months and older
      - 143,696 doses have been administered to all races
      - Of those, 122,202 (85%) doses were administered to AI/AN individuals

Data Considerations: All data is from the IHS COVID-19 Dashboard

- Administration data is still being validated for primary series < 5 years
- A significant number of administered doses have been given to “Unknown Race”. Areas are actively working to determine if race data can be recovered.
- Some AI/AN patients may have been vaccinated outside of IHS facilities that chose the IHS for vaccination; these doses are not reflected in this data.
Variants

• BQ & XBB variants are predominating in the U.S.
  • Regardless of circulating variants, Bivalent Boosters are effective at making a more diverse and robust immune response for protection from severe disease.
  • XBB.1.5 is a subvariant of Omicron BA.5, and bivalent boosters retain decent efficacy against it.
  • XBB.1.5 is the most transmissible Omicron subvariant to date, according to some sources.
    • The virus has a mutation that allows it latch on to ACE2 receptors and infect cells more easily.
    • Though XBB.1.5 is more transmissible, it is thought to be less likely to cause severe disease, especially in individuals previously vaccinated or infected.
  • Immunity wanes over time. Bivalent boosters still offer the best, updated protection against severe disease and complications, especially in elders.

Reference: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions
Strategy 2 - Detect

• 5.14 million tests have been performed, 11.8% positive
• Current 7-day rolling positivity is 12.6%
• Home testing: many kits sent out, supply is available and still encourage use
Also Abbott kits for RSV, Flu, Strep and COVID are available from NSSC
All Reporting IHS Areas
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) for Current Surveillance Year and Previous Six Surveillance Years
Percentage of Visits for ILI Visits per Week

Week Number

PercentILI
Test and Treat

Established Test and Treat for our communities up to 81 registered sites with another 200 providing Test2Treat

Closely follow the use of the anti-viral medications

Clinical guidance was provided to the IHS areas

Encourage the use of the Test2Treat sites
Strategy 3 - Treat

- Therapeutics: Monoclonal antibody therapy is available
  - Remdisivir is approved for outpatient treatment

- The oral antivirals are approved
  Paxlovid is provided at Test 2 Treat
  Some evidence that paxlovid may decrease chance of long covid
Strategy 4 - Recover

- Manage Long COVID
- Increase mental health services, pilot training of mental health aides
- If you are having symptoms that continue after COVID see your primary care doctor
- Up to 30% of people that tested positive for COVID will have Long COVID
Threat of Opioids

The Toll of the Opioid Epidemic

In 2019, 1,600,000 people had an opioid use disorder. 18

In 2020, 68,630 out of 91,799, or 74.8%, of total overdose deaths, involved opioids. 19
Harm Reduction Efforts

- Harm Reduction Efforts Updated IHM 3:35 Dispensing Naloxone to Community First Responders
- New naloxone toolkits to support OTC naloxone availability (FDA anticipates March 2023)
- New Naloxone Toolkit and Training Curriculum for School Employees
- Fentanyl Test Strips Pilot project
US transplant waiting list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Transplant Waiting List – Candidates by Race/Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Organs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


American Indian/Alaska Native

- The number of organ transplants performed on American Indians/Alaska Natives in 2020 was 30 percent of the number of American Indians/Alaska Natives currently waiting for a transplant. The number of transplants performed on whites was 48.8 percent of the number currently waiting.
- While about 0.8 percent of the total candidates currently waiting for transplants are American Indian/Alaska Natives, they comprised 0.6 percent of organ donors in 2020.
- In 2020, 28.8 percent of the organs recovered from American Indians/Alaska Natives came from living donors as compared to 33.4 percent of white living donors.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives are more likely to develop a case of hepatitis C than the white population, a cause of liver failure.
## Transplants by ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transplants Performed in the U.S. by Recipient Ethnicity, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI/AN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Transplants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


How can we increase transplants?

- Education of our communities
- Encourage organ donation
- Diagnosis earlier
- Provide guidance for potential recipients
- Spread the word

TalkDonation
Community Cancer Project

- Created a work team including I/T/U, tribal organizations and academic medical centers
- Develop plans for regionalized cancer care
- Increase the number of providers to provide telehealth
- Work with academic centers to improve cultural sensitivity and appropriateness
- Work with academic centers to provide care near the tribal communities
- Our Public Health Aide program includes navigators for cancer care
- Maximize community-based cancer screening
Thank You
FY 2025 National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Group

JILLIAN E. CURTIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
National Tribal Budget Formulation

The FY 2025 National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Session will take place Tuesday, February 14 – Wednesday, February 15 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, DC. At this meeting Tribal Representatives from each of the 12 IHS Areas will:

- Determine a unified recommendation for the FY 2025 IHS Budget;
- Identify key policy recommendations; and
- Select a theme for the Tribal Budget Recommendations.
Progress to Date

Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders from across the country have participated in a number of key activities leading up to next week’s national meeting.

- Planning and Evaluation Session
- Area Budget Consultations
- Preparation of Budget Recommendations, Hot Topics, and Accomplishments
- Area Report Webinars
- Resource Day
FY 2025 Target Level

The National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Group identified a FY 2025 funding target of $51.4 billion in mandatory funding.

- This funding level is +$2.4 billion above the FY 2024 Tribal Budget Recommendation, and represents a proxy for a “full funding budget.”
- The top five programs receiving the largest funding expansion recommendations are:
  - Indian Health Care Improvement Fund
  - Maintenance & Improvement
  - Alcohol & Substance Abuse
  - Dental Services
  - Hospitals & Health Clinics
Next Steps

After the National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Session, Tribal Representatives and Technical Support Team Members will work with NIHB to produce the FY 2025 Tribal Budget Recommendations.

- The National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Group Co-Chairs will present the FY 2025 Tribal Budget Recommendations at the HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation.

- The IHS will use the Tribal Budget Recommendations as the Foundation for its FY 2025 budget request to HHS.
FDPIR Nutrition Education
Increasing Access to Healthy Foods in Indian Country
FDPIR Food Package

Each month, participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet.

Participants select from more than 100 products, including:

- Frozen beef, chicken, and pork options
- Canned meat, poultry, and fish
- Fresh, dried, and canned fruit and juice
- Fresh and canned vegetables
- Soups
- A variety of pasta, rice, flour, cereals, and other grain products including whole grain options
- Canned and dry beans
- Peanuts and peanut butter
- Cheese
- Low-fat milk, nonfat dry milk, and skim evaporated milk
- Eggs
Nutrition education is changing the way program participants cook and eat.

Of the respondents who picked up educational materials or took part in nutrition education activities:

- An estimated **52%** made changes to their cooking or eating
- Of those who made changes, **40%** used the recipes offered

**Nutrition education activities and materials include:**

- Cooking demonstrations
- Calendars
- Taste tests
- Newsletters
- Recipes
- Fact sheets
- Workshops

**Nutrition education topics are culturally relevant and geared towards the specific needs and interests of FDPIR participants.**

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**Frozen Ground Bison**

A lean ground meat that is a traditional food for many Native American communities. This product comes frozen.

**How To Use It**

Frozen ground bison can be used in casseroles, lasagna, and chili or as stuffing for squash. Use in place of ground beef or turkey.

**How To Store It**

Store in the freezer at or below 0 °F until ready to use. Thaw according to package instructions.

**Why Eat It?**

Bison contains protein which helps build healthy bones, muscles, skin, and blood.

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**Bison Chili**

Makes 10 servings

**Ingredients**

- 2 lbs. ground bison
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cans tomato sauce, no salt added (15 oz. each)
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ½ cup kidney beans, cooked, drained

**Directions**

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. In a large skillet, over medium-high heat, cook ground bison and onions until meat is brown and onion is translucent.
3. Drain any excess fat.
4. Add tomato sauce, spices, and beans.
5. Let simmer on low for at least 20 minutes. Bison should reach a final internal cook temperature of at least 160 °F as measured with a food thermometer before serving.

Recipe adapted from ChefsKnowWheat, Nutrition Services, GetFired Initiative.
FDPIR Sharing Gallery

Recipes & Cookbooks    Handouts    Videos    Photos

Toolkits    Grants    In the News    Additional Resources
FDPIR Nutrition Education Funding
Partnership Opportunities
Questions & Answers
Next Tribal Leader and UIO Leader Call:
March 2, 2023