



OCT 14 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

In September, the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services initiated Tribal Consultation to seek input from Tribal Leaders on COVID-19 Vaccine planning for Indian Country. In concert with this Tribal Consultation, I am writing to open a comment period through Wednesday, October 21, to request your input on the Indian Health Service (IHS) COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan.

We developed and will continue to tailor the IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan based on available information and your input. Specifically, we will continue to assess, respond, and adapt federal guidance as new information becomes available regarding vaccine developments, vaccine storage requirements, risk groups, and recommendations prioritized by researchers and guidance bodies. Your comments and recommendations will be used to update the IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan accordingly.

The IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan is available on the IHS Web site at <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/vaccine/>. Tribal programs may submit written comments on the Draft Plan to consultation@ihs.gov - SUBJECT LINE: IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan. **The deadline for written comments on this Tribal Consultation is Wednesday, October 21, 2020.**

Your valuable input on the IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Draft Plan will help to ensure that a COVID-19 vaccine is effectively delivered to American Indian and Alaska Native communities that depend on the strong partnership between the federal government, tribes, and Urban Indian Organizations.

Sincerely,

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