



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 24 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indian Health Service (IHS), is initiating Tribal Consultation to seek input from Tribal Leaders on COVID-19 vaccination planning for Indian Country. This Tribal Consultation 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. And we want to ensure that a COVID-19 vaccine is effectively delivered to tribal nations and their communities. To accomplish this objective, we are seeking Tribal Consultation, and Tribal Leaders will be able 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.

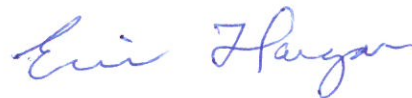
In addition to conversations with jurisdictions and the IHS that may be occurring at the local level, Tribal Leaders will have several forums to discuss vaccination planning for distribution and allocation, including the following national and regional conference calls:

- September 24, 2020; 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, ET: White House Tribal Leaders Call
 - Register here: <https://ems9.intellor.com/?do=register&t=1&p=901928>
- September 28, 2020; 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET: HHS Regions 1, 2, 3, 4
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 433 5800
- September 28, 2020; 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET: HHS Region 5
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 237 2009
- September 29, 2020; 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET: HHS Regions 6
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 978 7009
- September 29, 2020; 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET: HHS Regions 7, 8
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 692 6624
- October 1, 2020; 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET: HHS Region 9
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 650 2728
- October 1, 2020; 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET, HHS Region 10
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 442 6687

In addition to feedback during conference calls, I also invite you to provide input and recommendations in writing by submitting your comments to consultation@hhs.gov. **The deadline for written comments on this Tribal Consultation is Friday, October 9, 2020.**

The success of a COVID-19 vaccine program for tribal nations and your communities depends on the strong partnership between the federal government and tribal nations. We look forward to continuing this partnership as we plan for COVID-19 vaccine distribution and allocation.

Sincerely,



Eric D. Hargan