



December 21, 2020

Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders:

On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an [Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19 for individuals 18 years of age and older. This EUA represents the second vaccine authorized for the prevention of COVID-19. Operation Warp Speed and private sector partners will now begin distributing the first allocation of doses to sites designated by the public health jurisdictions and five federal agencies with which OWS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been working with to plan distribution. HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II and Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller [have issued statements on this next step](#).

I am happy to report that many of the IHS federal, tribal health programs, and urban Indian organizations that chose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through IHS have received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and have begun vaccinating health care workers. Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting tribes and IHS facilities in the State of Minnesota to see first-hand the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. During the trip, I witnessed first-hand the hard work of our IHS employees ensuring the first round of vaccinations were administered to health care personnel and the most vulnerable. I also want to praise the thoughtful work of the [IHS Vaccine Task Force](#) and the [IHS National Supply Service Center](#) to allocate and distribute shipments of a safe and effective vaccine throughout Indian Country.

Last week, the FDA issued a new emergency use authorization for the [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test which is authorized for use by patients at home with a prescription](#). The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test is authorized for prescription use at home with self-collected nasal swab samples from individuals ages 15 years or older who are suspected of COVID-19 by their health care provider within the first seven days of symptom onset. It is also authorized for use with adult-collected nasal swab samples from individuals ages four years or older who are suspected of COVID-19 by their health care provider within the first seven days of symptom onset.

With colder weather, and more people staying indoors – we find that pandemic fatigue is setting in. Maintaining physical distance from those we love is difficult. The holidays are typically a time to reconnect with family and friends. As we are seeing cases of COVID-19 continue to rise, we must renew our sense of personal accountability to protect ourselves, and those around us. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated information and recommendations for [winter holidays](#). The safest way to celebrate the holidays is at home with the people who live with you. [Travel](#) and [gatherings](#) with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). Travel may increase your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. CDC continues to recommend postponing travel and staying home, as this is the best way to protect yourself and others this year.

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.

Vaccine Information:

- [FDA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccine Providers\)](#)
- [FDA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)
- [FDA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [FDA Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained](#)
- [FDA Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19; Guidance for Industry](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Patients](#)

- [FDA Development and Licensure of Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19; Guidance for Industry](#)
- [CDC Information on What healthcare professionals need to know about vaccination plans](#)
- [Vaccine Communications Toolkit for Providers](#)
- [10 Things Healthcare Professionals Need to Know about Vaccine Plans](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [CDC Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [CDC Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel](#)
- [CDC Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- [CDC What to expect at your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19](#)
- [CDC What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [CDC Who Gets Vaccinated First?](#)
- [CDC How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [CDC 8 Things to Know about Vaccine Planning](#)

Testing/Supplies/Diagnostics/Contact Tracing Resources:

- [CDC Information on things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [CDC Clinical Questions about COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Updated Information on Operational Considerations for Schools](#)
- [CDC Updated Information on Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure](#)
- [CDC Updated Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- [CDC Updated Information for Improving Ventilation in buildings](#)
- [CDC Updated Information on Considerations for reopening Schools](#)
- [CDC Updated Information for pediatric healthcare providers](#)
- [CDC Information on Coping with stress](#)
- [CDC Updated FAQs for workplaces and businesses](#)
- [CDC Updated Information for Nursing homes and long-term care facilities](#)
- [CDC Updated Information for Older adults](#)
- [CDC Updated Contact tracing communications toolkit](#)