



July 6, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) is seeking your recommendations and feedback on how we can improve the agency's policies and practices to better engage with Indian Country through meaningful consultation. To gather this feedback, CDC/ATSDR is hosting a tribal consultation session on Thursday, August 5, from 3:15–4:45 pm (EDT). You can register to attend this consultation session here:

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsfu-gqDgsGD1rTre7HPjbXyIF3v5jSp4>

The consultation will be held on the implementation of Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, consistent with the [Presidential Memorandum](#) of January 26, 2021 on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening the Nation-to-Nation Relationships. The Presidential Memorandum requires CDC/ATSDR to submit a detailed plan for implementing Executive Order 13175, which charges agencies to engage in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have implications for tribal governments and entities. CDC/ATSDR is committed to working with federally recognized tribal governments on a government-to-government basis and strongly supports and respects tribal sovereignty and self-determination for tribal governments in the United States. The current CDC/ATSDR tribal consultation policy is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/consultation-support/tribal-consultation/policy.html>.

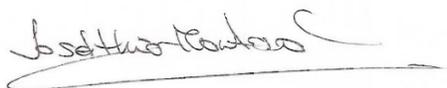
CDC/ATSDR is also committed to working in partnership with tribal nations and the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) that advises CDC/ATSDR in the planning and coordination of tribal consultation sessions and ensures that CDC/ATSDR activities or policies that impact Indian Country are brought to the attention of all tribal leaders. As the President's memorandum states, "History demonstrates that we best serve Native American people when tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities, and when federal officials speak with and listen to tribal leaders in formulating federal policy that affects tribal nations."

Specific questions on which we invite your feedback are listed below.

1. How do we strengthen our tribal consultation policy and process to ensure CDC/ATSDR is responsive and engaging with Indian Country in a meaningful way?
2. How do we improve communication and outreach regarding agency policy or program changes that impact tribal nations?
3. Are there specific areas where tribal officials would like more information or feel they are not getting adequate outreach to engage in a meaningful way?
4. How do we improve tribal consultations? Should we have sessions every year?

These topics will be open for discussion at the consultation session on August 5, 2021. For those who would also like to send in written remarks, please send us your initial comments and recommendations no later than 5:00 pm (EDT) on September 7, 2021, to tribalsupport@cdc.gov. This initial feedback will help guide us in next steps for further consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José T. Montero", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

José T. Montero, MD, MHCDS
Designated Federal Official, CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee
Director, Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support