



February 16, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) federally recognized tribes share the goal of establishing clear policies to further the government-to-government relationship between the United States Government and federally recognized AI/AN tribes. Effective consultation results in information exchange, mutual understanding, and informed decision-making.

Thank you for your recommendations on strengthening relationships during the implementation of CDC's Moving Forward initiative. CDC/ATSDR is seeking feedback on how the agency can better engage with Indian Country through meaningful consultation. We heard from tribes on their priorities as we transition out of the COVID-19 public health emergency and how CDC/ASTDR can better support tribes and tribal communities moving forward.

We use various methods to gather input on CDC's Moving Forward initiative and tribes' public health priorities, including the hybrid [tribal consultation session](#) held on February 9, 2023, and collecting public comments through the Federal Register Notice published on December 13, 2022 [[FR Doc 2022-26958](#)]. We understand the importance of providing timely and clear responses to AI/AN federally recognized tribes, and we remain committed to holding open and meaningful engagement.

We continue to accept written recommendations and feedback until 5:00 pm (EST) on February 24, 2023; comments may be submitted by email to the Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances at tribalsupport@cdc.gov. After the comment period for FR. Doc. 2022-26958 concludes, we will provide you with a report summarizing the feedback and next steps by May 27, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie A. Dauphin".

Leslie Ann Dauphin, PhD
Acting Designated Federal Official, CDC/ATSDR
Director, National Center for State, Tribal, Local and
Territorial Public Health Infrastructure and
Workforce, *proposed*
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention