



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
395 E Street, SW - Ste 9200
Washington, DC 20201
PH: 202-245-0625

April 7, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) federally recognized tribes share the goal of enhancing worker safety and health in tribal communities. Effective consultation results in information exchange, mutual understanding, and informed decision-making.

On February 3, 2022, CDC/NIOSH hosted a virtual tribal consultation to improve the draft AI/AN Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan. There were 100 participants, including tribal leaders, tribal organizations, tribal partners, and CDC/NIOSH senior leaders. Comments were accepted from February 3, 2022, to February 24, 2022. NIOSH would like to thank each of the tribal leaders and tribal partners who provided recommendations to improve the draft American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan.

All written and oral testimony and comments received before the deadline were reviewed and summarized in the report titled, "Tribal Consultation on the American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan." In the report the most frequent recommendations were categorized under larger corresponding themes: 1) commitment to government-to-government relationships with tribes, 2) acknowledgement and honoring tribal practices, 3) cultivation of partnerships and collaborations, 4) enhanced communication and, 5) strengthening occupational safety and health (OSH) surveillance and reporting. Additional recommendations were summarized under the following themes: 1) prioritizing tribal public health infrastructure, 2) better coordination across federal agencies, and 3) clarifying fully vaccinated for COVID-19 for employees. NIOSH is actively working to incorporate relevant feedback from the tribal consultation into the draft American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan and implementation plan.

This Dear Tribal Leader Letter and "Tribal Consultation on the American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan Report," conclude the tribal consultation process. NIOSH will continue to communicate and seek input during the public comment period of a Federal Register Notice.

If you have any questions about the "Tribal Consultation on the American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan Report", please email Elizabeth Dalsey at edalsey@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

John Howard, MD, MPH, JD, LLM, MBA
Director