



August 26, 2021

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 to improve our policies and practices to better engage with AI/AN federally recognized tribes. CDC/ATSDR recognize our unique relationship with AI/AN federally recognized tribes and are committed to fulfilling our critical role in promoting the health and safety of AI/AN people.

As we review and update the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Consultation Policy,¹ we use various methods to gather input, including the virtual tribal consultation session held on August 5, 2021, and collecting public comments through the Federal Register Notice published on July 2, 2021 [[FR Doc. 2021-14205](#)]. 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 in the review and revision of our Tribal Consultation Policy and in the development of future policies that have significant implications for tribes.

We continue to accept written recommendations and feedback until 5 pm (EDT) on September 7, 2021; comments may be submitted by email to CAPT Karen “Kari” Heard, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances at tribalsupport@cdc.gov. After the comment period for FR. Doc. 2021-14205 concludes, we will provide you with a report summarizing the feedback and next steps by November 11, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose T. Montero", with a horizontal line underneath.

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

¹ www.cdc.gov/tribal/consultation-support/tribal-consultation/policy.html