Vaccination Forum in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & Indian Health Service

October 6 & 7, 2021
Welcome from the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs & BIE Director Tony L. Dearman
It is our national priority to diminish the risk of COVID-19 and provide the safest, in-person educational environment possible for our students at BIE-operated schools.

Data shows vaccines may help keep people from spreading COVID-19 to others and help keep children from serious illness if they contract COVID-19.

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland’s September 2, 2021 Secretarial Order 3402 requires BIE educators to receive a COVID-19 vaccine no later than October 15, 2021.

On September 9, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration implemented an Executive Order requiring coronavirus vaccination among Federal employees more broadly including BIE employees and school faculty.
• The Vaccination Orders apply to BIE-operated elementary schools, secondary schools, postsecondary schools, off-reservation boarding schools, and peripheral dormitories.

• The Orders exclude Tribally Controlled School employees from the requirement.

• Educators who are unable to get vaccinated due to an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-covered disability or a Title VII-covered sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation that does not pose an undue hardship on BIE-operated schools.

• CDC currently recommends everyone 12 years of age and older receive a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against the virus
Bureau of Indian Education Vaccination Forum

Erin McCanlies, PhD
Epidemiologist
Tribal Support Section, COVID-19 Response

cdc.gov/coronavirus
What We Know

- COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death
- COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of people spreading COVID-19 to others

ARE VACCINES EFFECTIVE?
Yes! Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death; it also helps reduce the spread of the virus in communities.

With the Delta variant, vaccination is more urgent than ever.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected from</th>
<th>Vaccinated</th>
<th>Unvaccinated</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe Symptoms</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitalization</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death</td>
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cdc.gov/coronavirus
The Importance of Everyone Getting Vaccinated

- Anyone—even those who are young and healthy—can spread and get seriously ill from COVID-19.
- Everyone ages 12 years and older is now able to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- This opens vaccination to approximately 17 million adolescents in the United States and strengthens our nation’s efforts to protect even more people from the negative effects of COVID-19.
- Getting adolescents vaccinated means they can get back to social activities more quickly and can provide parents and caregivers peace of mind knowing their family is protected.
Is It Safe for Me to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine if I Would Like to Have a Baby One Day?

▪ **Yes.** If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.
  ▪ Currently, no evidence shows that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems (problems trying to get pregnant).”
▪ For more information, visit [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preg-breastfeeding/vaccines.html).
Will COVID-19 Vaccine Alter my DNA?

- **No.** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.
  - There are currently two types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized and recommended for use in the United States:
    - Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines
    - Viral vector vaccines
  - Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.
Can COVID-19 Vaccine Make Me Sick with COVID-19?

- **No.** None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.
  - COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.
  - For more information, visit [Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#).
COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools

Sarah M. Lee, PhD
State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support Task Force
CDC COVID-19 Response

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Prevention Strategies to Reduce Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools
Key Takeaways

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person schools in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- This guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently).
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Schools should require universal masking for all students, teachers, and staff in K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status or level of community transmission.
The Importance Of Layered Prevention Strategies In Schools

COVID-19

Layered Prevention Strategies

Safe In-Person Learning

- Safely Open For In-person Instruction And Remain Open
- Children Can Get Sick From COVID-19
- Children Can Spread The Virus
- Not All Students Are Eligible For Vaccination
Prevention Strategies

- Promoting vaccination
- Consistent and correct mask use
- Physical distancing
- Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks
- Ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection
For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Indian Health Service

Bureau of Indian Education
Vaccination Forum

CAPT CAROL S. LINCOLN, RN, MSN, MBA-HCM
CAPT HOLLY VAN LEW, PHARM.D., BCPS
IHS & BIE – A Longstanding Partnership

• Longstanding Partnership
  ◦ Relationships for medical care and support of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) students through IHS clinics, provision of on-site care, and remote consultation.
  ◦ Collaborative weekly meetings since January 2020 to ensure and encourage open communication, coordination of pandemic related activities and identification of the healthcare related needs for BIE schools.
  ◦ IHS provides healthcare expertise and subject matter experts in the areas of COVID-19 testing, layered prevention strategies and vaccinations.
  ◦ IHS continues to provide personal protective equipment, testing materials, and educational materials to BIE.
COVID-19 Vaccine Collaboration

• Local Points of Contact Engaged
  ◦ Indian Health Service facilities and Tribal Health Programs continue to be engaged to encourage coordination and access to COVID-19 vaccinations
    ◦ Connected critical personnel at IHS vaccine clinics to BIE Federal and Tribally Controlled Schools

• Faculty & Staff
  ◦ IHS prioritized BIE staff and faculty in the early phases of COVID-19 vaccine roll out and offered local vaccination opportunities
  ◦ Ongoing and future collaborations for booster doses of vaccine

• Students (12 years and older)
  ◦ IHS local facilities partnered with Federal and Tribally Controlled Schools in the early summer to vaccinate adolescents in May/June 2021
  ◦ Ongoing planning for vaccination events on site at schools or coordination to attend IHS vaccination clinics.
IHS – Pfizer-BioNTech Booster Update

• Boosters may be offered 6 months after the 2nd dose of Pfizer-BioNTech.

• Booster doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are recommended only for certain groups:

  • You **SHOULD** get a Pfizer booster if:
    - 65+
    - Long-term care facility resident
    - 50-64 with underlying medical conditions

  • You **MAY** get a Pfizer booster if 18-64 yrs AND
    - Underlying medical conditions
    - Increased exposure & transmission risk*

  *In occupational or congregate settings

• Boosters for Moderna and J&J

  • Moderna: submitted booster data in September 2021, FDA decision pending
  • Janssen/Johnson & Johnson: Anticipate data to be submitted to the FDA in November 2021
Questions?