



November 21, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are pleased to provide you with our revised Tribal Consultation Policy, which was updated on November 12, 2013. This revised Policy requires that all agency programs consult with tribal governments when developing programs, policies, and activities that will affect Native populations.

The CDC/ATSDR Tribal Consultation Policy was revised to ensure consistency and compliance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tribal Consultation Policy, as well as the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee Charter, the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, and the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995—with input from HHS, CDC programs, the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC), and other stakeholders.

As you are aware, on February 19, 2013, we sent out the draft revised Tribal Consultation Policy to the chairperson, chief, governor, president, or equivalent elected tribal leader of each federally recognized tribe for a review and comment period. After receiving several requests for additional time, we extended the comment period until May 20, providing a total of 90 days for review and comment. We received 15 letters during the initial comment period and one additional letter during the extended comment period.

CDC has reviewed all comments received and revised the Policy to reflect these comments and ensure consistency and compliance with federal laws and regulations. The final version, which is enclosed in this letter, is also available on our Tribal Support website at: www.cdc.gov/tribal/consultation/policy.html.

CDC recognizes that this is a time of transition and that we must work together continually with tribes to identify and act on ways to improve our processes and relationships. We are confident that, by following the HHS models for consultation and the TAC, we can improve upon these processes now and in the future. For example, we are planning open recruitment for the 11 open TAC delegate seats using the HHS model. We are also making other administrative changes to ensure CDC is strengthening its government-to-government relationships with tribes.

If you have any questions regarding the Tribal Consultation Policy, TAC, or CDC's and ATSDR's consultation activities with federally recognized tribal governments, please contact CAPT Craig Wilkins, Acting Director, Tribal Support Unit, at TribalSupport@cdc.gov.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen the relationship among tribal governments, CDC, and ATSDR in promoting the health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Monroe, MD
Director, Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support
Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Enclosure