COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Indian Country
A Partnership Perspective from Navajo Area

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NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD WEBINAR
JULY 10, 2020
NAVAJO NATION CURFEW
NAVAJO NATION COVID-19 CASE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Expanded Testing
Contact Tracing
Home Support
Safe Isolation

https://time.com/5838271/utah-navajo-health-system-coronavirus/
“We can outlive this virus. But we have to look at each step to be more creative.” Loucinda Charleston, CHR
Contact Tracing on Navajo Nation

**Partnership highlights**
- Coordinate effort under HCOC
- Outreach to sites to learn and listen

**Contact Tracing strategies**
- SOPs and Guides
- Workforce Projections
- Tailored CommCare App
- Volunteer Contact Tracers
Staffing and Workforce Needs (sample)
## Case Management / Contact Tracing Workforce – Models for Navajo Nation

If you have this # of new cases/day or avg cases/week → This many callers → This many case managers → This many community connectors → To get to >70% follow-up on cases & contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># new cases / day</th>
<th>Avg new cases / week</th>
<th>Callers (case intake + contact calls)</th>
<th>Case Managers (1:10)</th>
<th>Community Connectors (1:5)</th>
<th>Total FTE Needed</th>
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<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>91</td>
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- Projection Assumptions: 70% follow-up, follow-up every other day
- Projection Assumptions: case load and time estimates based on team using CommCare
Volunteer Contact Tracers

Contact Tracing Volunteer program
- Diné and regional public health students
- Training
  - Online: ASTHO / JHU / IHS HIPAA
  - Webinars: Navajo context, 1:1 role play
  - Weekly refreshers: layer additional skills
- Register in ESAR-VHP portal

Field support
- CommCare allows team communication
- Case Management huddles
- Team / 1:1 check-ins

Future goals
- Certification / academic credit / work study
- Volunteer → Paid workforce
- More certified Navajo callers
CommCare COVID-19 System

CommCare System

- Navajo Epidemiology Center as the repository for all data
- Opportunity for better site access and visualization of their own data
- Referrals across sites
- Can work online and offline
- Open-source, HIPAA secure
- Ongoing updates for Navajo Nation
  - Assign families (instead of cases / contacts)
  - Add Navajo-specific questions
  - Ensure I/Q Follow-up in the community
  - Reporting functions
- Allows virtual callers to support team
Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

The opinions expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Indian Health Service, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Disclosures:
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To all of our partners!