The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is the national non-profit organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally competent health and public health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) living in urban areas. NCUIH is the only national representative of the 41 Title V Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) under the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). NCUIH strives to improve the health of the over 70% of the AI/AN population that lives in urban areas, supported by quality, accessible health care centers.

Gathering of People: Operating a UIO During COVID-19 and the Emerging Variants

September 9, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

Presenters: Evelina Maho (NCUIH), Dionne Apedjihoun (NCUIH), Aron Wahkinney (DIHF), Dr. Abigail Carlson (CDC)
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Agenda

• Introductions
• Welcome by Aron Wahkinney (Denver Indian Health and Family Services)
• Presentation by Dr. Carlson
• Q & A
• Conclusion and Thank you
• Turn on video

• Mute your microphone when not speaking

• Enter your name and organization in the chat box
Audio & Video Recording

Please note that this session will be recorded for educational and quality improvement purposes.
Your Feedback is Important!

Please don’t forget to take our survey to help improve our services to you.

Complete the Survey
Welcome

Contracts & Grants Program Manager, Denver Indian Health and Family Services

Aron is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and is currently the Contracts and Grants Manager at Denver Indian Health and Family Services. Aron holds a Master of Science from the University of Central Oklahoma, concentrated in Wellness Management Health Promotion and has worked in tribal public health for 7 years.

Aron Wahkinney, MS  
Enrolled Member of the Comanche Nation  
Contact Aron:awahkinney@dihfs.org
Modeling a traditional "Kawe" (Comanche term for "gathering of people"), NCUIIH presents a facilitated discussion on infection prevention and control (IPC) best practices for operating UIOs during the global pandemic amidst emerging COVID-19 variants.
What are UIOs Asking?

- How do we better prepare for the variants and the start of Flu season?
- Should UIOs be taking different steps in the prevention of the new Delta Variant or do the UIOs continue the same format?
- What are the best types of masks to wear as compared to cloth masks?
- Where should we screen our well patients?
- Is the COVID rate increasing among pediatric children?
- In addition to masks, hand washing, (etc.), are there additional best practices?
- Is Delta variant spread through touching surfaces more than previous variants?
Dr. Abigail Carlson, MD, MPH  
**Medical Officer, CDC Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion**

- Dr. Abigail Carlson is one of the infection control advisors and subject matter experts for Project Firstline, CDC’s new training collaboration for healthcare infection control.

- In this role, Dr. Carlson advises on the development of the Project Firstline curriculum, supporting resources, and training modalities; serves as a primary subject matter expert for Project Firstline training opportunities; and helps provide strategic direction for the future of the collaborative.

- Immediately prior to joining CDC, Dr. Carlson was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. There, she served as a Clinical Infectious Diseases Physician and Associate Hospital Epidemiologist for the Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System, developing and implementing infection control initiatives.
A REVIEW OF VARIANTS

Abigail L. Carlson, MD, MPH
09 September 2021
OBJECTIVES

• Brief review of virus parts
• Discuss how variants develop
• Understand why variants can be “more contagious”
• Understand variants as related to the IPC misconceptions
THE PARTS OF VIRUSES

- Fatty Envelope
- Capsid “Shell”
- Proteins Sticking Out of Fatty Envelope
- “Instruction Booklet” Genes
Why do you feel it’s important to know more about variants?

Do you have any specific concerns about variants and IPC?
THE PARTS OF VIRUSES

- Fatty Envelope
- Capsid “Shell”
- Proteins Sticking Out of Fatty Envelope
- “Instruction Booklet” Genes
What does it mean that the Delta variant “spreads more easily” or is “more contagious?”
DELTA VARIANT

• Also known as B.1.617.2
• “Spreads more easily,” “More contagious”
• What does this mean?
  ▪ One person with Delta variant infects more people than that person would with another variant, like Beta
WHY DOES DELTA SPREAD MORE EASILY?

• We’re still learning
• Possible parts of the answer
  ▪ Survives better
  ▪ Better at sticking to and getting into cells
  ▪ More virus gets made, so more gets breathed out
What does this mean for our infection control activities?
The key point about infection control and variants:

Infection control actions and tools still work!
COVID-19 IS STILL COVID-19

• Small variations but same overall structure

• Analogy: dog breeds
  ▪ More or less obedient
  ▪ More or less hyper
  ▪ More or less friendly
  ▪ But a dog is still a dog!

• SARS-CoV-2 is still SARS-CoV-2
KEY POINTS

• Variants happen because of mistakes in copying genes

• Variants spread more easily when a sick person with the variant infects more people than they would if they were sick with a different variant
  ▪ Possible reasons: Better survival, better sticking to/entering cells, more virus made results in more virus breathed out

• New variants don’t require new IPC actions and tools to stop the spread – we just need to be sure we’re using them!
Q & A

You can also type your questions in the Chat Box
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# Upcoming NCUIH Events

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<td>Mental Health: Substance Abuse, Alcoholism, Opioid Misuse</td>
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Thank You!