

# Indian Health Service Navajo Area COVID-19 Vaccine Planning

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# COVID Vaccine Planning

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- Review of the CDC Playbook
- Review of the IHS plan draft
- Checklist distributed to all facilities
- Pre-planning worksheet distributed
- Assignments made to organize teams



# Collaboration with Tribal and Urban Organizations

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- Initial call with Tribal and Urban organizations
- Established area wide calls with all healthcare facilities in Navajo
- Appointed Navajo Area vaccine POC and data management POC
- Our team worked on the IHS HQ teams
- Attended the State meetings for vaccines



# Vaccine Distribution

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- All of the facilities in Navajo, except Utah Navajo, elected distribution through IHS
- Multiple calls with Navajo Nation leadership
- Draft of Navajo Area COVID Vaccine plan completed
- Distribution plan completed for Navajo
- Public messaging for vaccines



# Planning Continued

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- Multiple changes concerning the vaccine that would become available
- CDC playbook 2.0 reviewed
- IHS final Plan reviewed
- Table top exercise held for distribution and one for administration
- Final Navajo Area COVID Plan completed
- Discussions with Navajo Nation concerning priorities awaiting final ACIP guidelines



# Vaccine Distribution Scheduled

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- Required multiple adaptations to the distribution plan
- Delivered to Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC) on 12/14/21 and four distribution teams with police escorts were routed to Crownpoint, Tsehootsooi, Sage Memorial, Winslow, and Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) for timely and safe delivery
- Second shipment arrived at Chinle and Northern Navajo Medical Center (NNMC); from there, two distribution teams with escorts delivered to Tuba City and Kayenta
- Vaccines were administered on the first day
- All vaccines were delivered safely



# Challenges

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- Constantly changing information from vaccine companies
- CDC changes in guidance
- Establishing priorities with ACIP guidance timing
- Coordinating priority groups with safe access to healthcare facilities



# Where We Are Now

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- Completed 1a priorities
- Creating an online registration so data can be used to define capacity for vaccine administration
- Online registration also defines the business essential employees so they can be appropriately assigned to the healthcare facilities
- Public transparency with the priorities





