STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington State Relay

September 3, 2020

Steve Kutz, Chairman
American Indian Health Commission
808 North 5th Avenue
Sequim, Washington 98382

Dear Chairman Kutz:

SUBJECT: Medical Countermeasures Tribal-State-LHJ Coordination Plan

On August 12, 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) hosted a consultation with the AIHC, tribal nations, and other Indian health organizations to be prepared for the eventual distribution of medical countermeasures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The recommendations were shared with consultation partners and a comment period was held open on them through August 31, 2020. During that period, there was a single comment submitted to DOH from AIHC. It was incorporated into the final actions I have now approved, which are as follows:

1. Starting September 1, 2020, DOH staff from both the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division and the Prevention and Community Health Division/Office of Immunization and Child Profile will work together with tribal and local health jurisdiction (LHJ) leaders and representatives to support successful tribal-state-local health partnerships for the distribution of medical countermeasures, including vaccines.

2. By October 1, 2020, the Tribal-State-LHJ Medical Countermeasures Guide will be finalized to include this language on page 1, paragraph 2, under the Tribal Sovereign Authority Regarding Medical Countermeasures: **For each incident, the Tribe, not the local health jurisdiction or Washington State, shall determine the Tribe's service population. Each Tribe will coordinate with the State on the specific allocation of MCM to be distributed to the Tribe.**

3. By October 1, 2020, DOH will incorporate the following language into Annex 9, page 6, first item under the Tribal Sovereign Authority Regarding Medical Countermeasures: **For each incident, the Tribe, not the local health jurisdiction nor Washington State, shall determine the population the Tribe will serve to provide MCM, and each Tribe will coordinate with the State on the specific allocation of MCM to be distributed to the tribe.**

4. By November 2, 2020, the DOH Emergency Preparedness and Response team will begin training for tribal-state-LHJ partners on the revised Annex 9.

Chairman Kutz, we thank your Executive Committee for their leadership and your staff for their work on these important issues. We appreciate the strong and positive public health partnership we have to do this work together—work that supports the health of all Washingtonians.

Respectfully,

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Tamara Fife, Department of Health
Erika Henry, Department of Health