

## American Indian Health Commission for Washington State Tribal/Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition



**FOR THE HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TODAY, TOMORROW, AND INTO THE FUTURE**

**AIHC:** The American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) for Washington State is a tribally-driven non-profit 501(c)3 organization, established in 1994, serves as a forum for the federally-recognized in Washington State, two Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHPs), and a Tribal Community Center. The AIHC's mission is to improve the health of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people through tribal-state collaboration on health policies and programs focused on addressing health inequities and eliminating disparities.

**WHO:** The AIHC Tribal Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition (TUIHIC) serves to make significant change and improvements in the Indian, the Tribal, and Urban Indian (ITU) health system and is the first Tribal immunizations coalition in the nation. TUIHIC is coalition is a network of dedicated partners and community members, health care providers, elders, and tribal leaders working together to increase immunization rates and prevent infectious disease.



**WHAT:** AIHC TUIHIC works to improve American Indian/ Alaska Native immunizations and vaccine access, surveillance, practices, infectious disease prevention and health literacy.

**WHY:** American Indian/ Alaska Native people are impacted the most by illnesses that can be prevented through access to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended immunizations to address routine vaccination and novel disease such as HIN1, and COVID-19 and other outbreaks. A strategic goal identified by the TUIHIC is the prevention concept of 100% immunization coverage in Country.

**HOW:** The AIHC TUIHIC uses the ***Pulling Together for Wellness Model*** and establishes continuity through seven generations strategic planning to ensure tribally-driven prevention and support to address immunizations, vaccines, and infectious disease.

- Tribally-Driven Strategic Planning
- Network of Partners
- Historical and Cultural Context
- Based on a continuum of over a decade of Immunizations work

### **CURRENT ACTIVITES:**

- Convening the AIHC TUIHIC quarterly and special convenings to address *Tribal/Community Vaccine Readiness* issues designed to meet specific needs of Tribes and AI/AN communities.
- Information sharing, partnership enhancement, and training.
- Vaccine hesitancy special task force, including COVID-19 outreach and education.
- Infectious disease support prevention via vaccine uptake specific to COVID-19.
- Seasonal enhanced influenza immunizations.
- Technical assistance and support of culturally grounded policy, systems, and environmental change.

### **Contact Information**

Jan Ward Olmstead, [janolmstead@gmail.com](mailto:janolmstead@gmail.com) and Wendy Stevens, [ws.aihc@gmail.com](mailto:ws.aihc@gmail.com)