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# NWTEC COVID- 19 Response and TEC Update

# COVID-19 Leadership Team

- Laura Platero
- Thomas Weiser, MD – Indian Health Service Medical Epidemiologist
- Alex Wu – CDC EIS Officer
- Celeste Davis – Director Environmental Public Health Program (NWTEC)
- Tam Lutz – MCH Project Director (NWTEC)
- Jessica Leston – Community Clinical Learning (NWTEC)
- Stephanie Craig Rushing – Social Media and Digital Expertise (NWTEC)
- Victoria Warren-Mears – Director NWTEC Triage of Questions (NWTEC)

# NWTEC

Specialties include:  
research, public  
health programs,  
data management,  
epidemiology and  
others



Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center



INDIAN  
COUNTRY  
ECHO



Approximately 56 staff  
members work in the  
NWTEC

# Service Areas for Local TECs

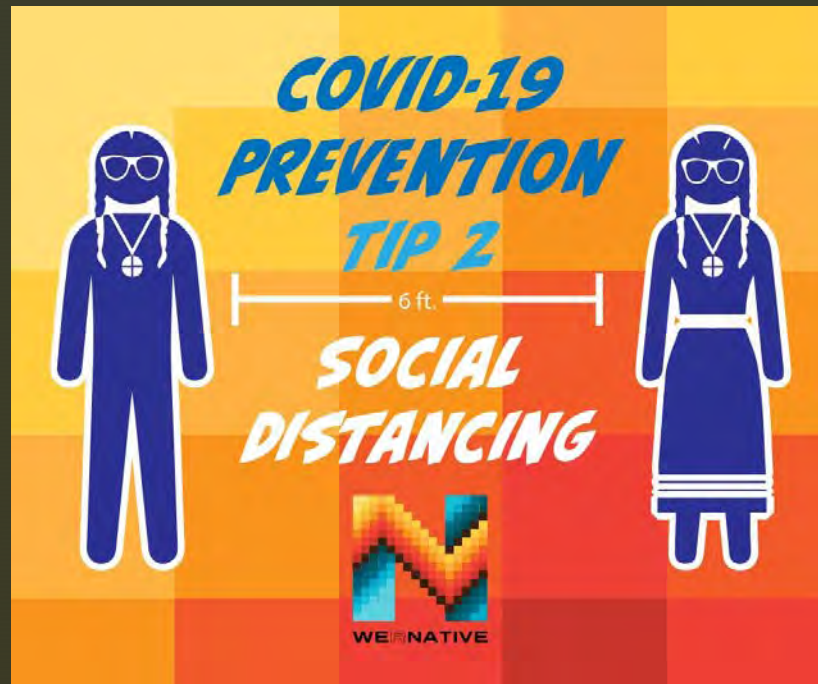
- NWTEC serves all northwest tribes: Idaho, Oregon and Washington
  - Have extensive data sharing and use agreements with tribes, state health departments and other regional partners. We have well over 22 data agreements which allow us to provide health profiles for the region.
    - UIHI serves Urban Indian Health Programs nationwide
    - For data surveillance for COVID-19, specifically with have a DSA with the Native Project and one pending for NARA.
- Currently conducting COVID-19 surveillance in partnership with Tribes and Indian Health Service – Portland Area Office



# NPAIHB and the NWTEC began response ~ 2/24/2020

- Activated our 8 member response team.
- Established web site information [www.npaihb.org/covid-19](http://www.npaihb.org/covid-19)
- COVID-19 Weekly Call with tribal and state partners.
- Educational materials.
- Adjusted surveillance with Orpheus and Essence systems in OR and WA states
- Began data collection for Portland Area Office of Indian Health Service

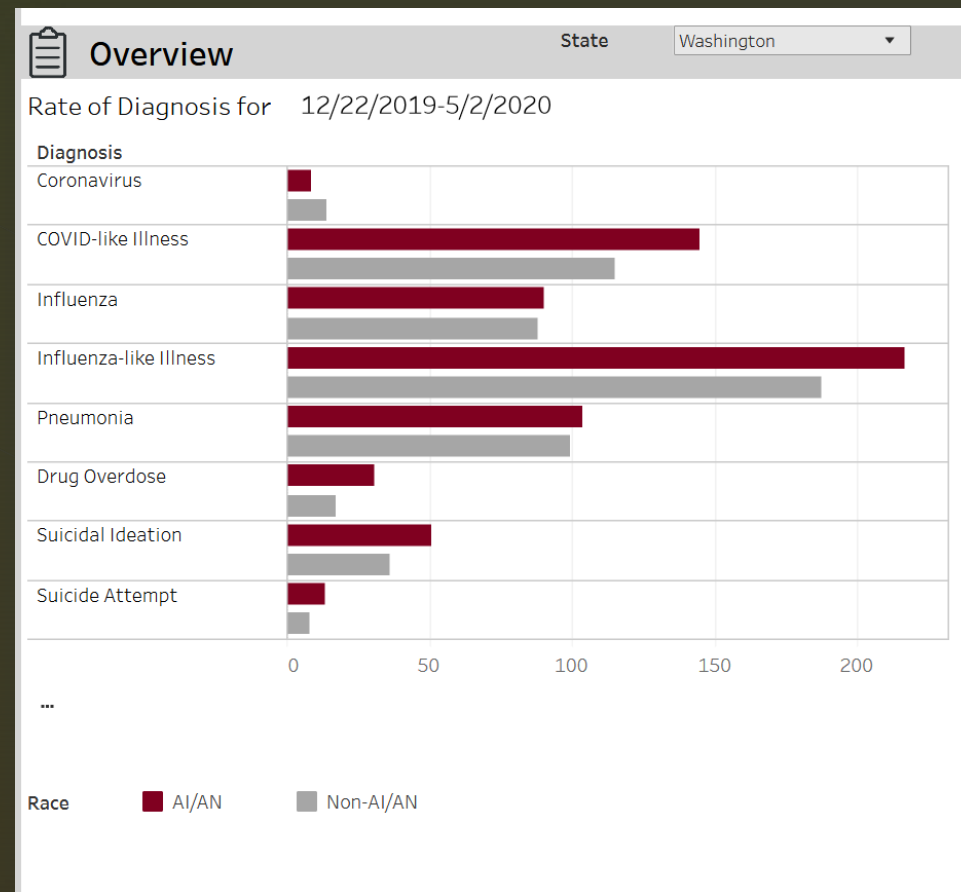
# Further NPAIHB and NWTEC Response



- COVID-19 Clinical ECHO established
  - Held twice weekly
  - Over 150 participants on each weekly call since it's inception
- Continue Development of Media Materials – youth focus
- Ongoing training and technical assistance
  - Current topics Outbreak Investigation and Contact tracing
  - 90 individuals trained to date.

# Developed a COVID-19 Data Dashboard

- <http://www.npaihb.org/covid-19-data-dashboard/>
- Emergency Department Surveillance for OR and WA



# Additional Responses

- Environmental Public Health Guidance for reopening of tribal enterprise.
- Continuing partnership with Columbia River Inter Tribal Fishing Commission (CRITFC) to ensure fisherman contact in isolated villages for testing and education.
- Stay home public health kits for patients with diabetes.
- FIT Testing capacity and kits for tribes
- Additional social media coming: future topics include; safe sweats, maternal child health, battling depression
- On-going tribal clinic revenue study
- Advocacy
- Contract Tracing staffing (5) in partnership with CDC foundation
- Tribal Grant Writer
- PHN and Social Work Case Manager



# Other Major Accomplishments

- Hired an Environmental Health Department
  - Provided guidance on reopening of programs
- Dental
  - On-line CDE training
  - Assisted with tele-dentistry training/application
- NARCH
  - Large Grant submitted
  - Cancer Fellowship Training is now on-line
- Data/Epidemiology
  - Leveraged existing DSAs with states to obtain COVID-19 data
  - On-line data dashboard developed
- Diabetes Program
  - Achieved all annual goals
  - 100% diabetes audit submission for the Area

# Other Major Accomplishments

- Cancer project
  - Submitted major grants
  - Cancer screening infographics developed
  - Tobacco Training
- Public Health Modernization
  - Oregon and Washington Staff Hired
  - OR kick off meetings held with ½ of tribes
- Washington working on development of public health communicable disease data report cards.

## Other Major Accomplishments

- Expanded Clinical Support
  - LGBTQ+ support groups
  - Supporting 4 new ECHO series focused on Harm Reduction,
    - Peer Specialists,
    - Dental, and
    - COVID-19.

Starting March 18, the NPAIHB hosted twice weekly COVID-19 Indian Country ECHO telehealth clinics. From March 18 to May 27, the NPAIHB telehealth program had over 2,760 attendees from 24 states. While the majority of participants have been from the Pacific Northwest, the wide reach of pre-existing networks has brought in participants from 24 states, all 12 areas in the US covering Indian Country, Guam, Mexico and Canada.

Right now, in this time of uncertainty, it is important for all of our Tribes to issue orders for community members to stay home, take a little time to look ahead, and continue to ask the federal government to honor treaty and trust obligations.

..... Tribes should reach out and help one another whenever possible. In this difficult time, we need each other to get through this pandemic.

Nickolaus Lewis, Chair, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Questions for NWTEC? Call or Text Victoria Warren-Mears at 503-998-6063 or email to [vwarrenmears@npaihb.org](mailto:vwarrenmears@npaihb.org)