



**NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD**

Burns-Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Colville Tribe
Coos, Siuslaw, &
Lower Umpqua Tribe
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Grand Ronde Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispell Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha Tribe
Lummi Tribe
Makah Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribe
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Tribe
NW Band of Shoshoni Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
Siletz Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Spokane Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Umatilla Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

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Portland, OR 97201
Phone: (503) 228-4185
Fax: (503) 228-8182
www.npaihb.org

March 13, 2020

Dear Tribal Chairs, Delegates and Tribal Health Directors,

The health and safety of our staff, tribes, and communities is of the utmost importance to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB). We have heard from many of you about the precautionary efforts you have taken as you respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the needs of your community members. We believe that taking every precaution to protect your community members and loved ones is critical to reducing transmission of COVID-19. We support your efforts and initiatives.

As a P.L. 93-638 organization and Public Health Authority for our area, we are committed to prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and the communities we serve. We are taking precautions to limit the spread of the virus and we are implementing a plan to allow us to remain responsive to your needs and inquiries.

In addition:

- We have cancelled our Quarterly Board Meeting scheduled for April 13-16 in the Great Wolf Lodge.
- We have cancelled all NPAIHB staff travel and meetings in March and April. Most federal agencies and other organizations have cancelled their events as well.
- Nearly all NPAIHB staff will be teleworking for the remainder of the month in an effort to prevent any potential transmission of COVID-19 within the office environment. All staff will maintain regular work hours and will be available to you via email or by cell phone. This is intended as a precaution to keep those who may be at high risk within our staff, families and communities safe from any potential transmission.

We also remain active in responding to inquiries, concerns and needs related to COVID-19. Here is what we are doing and what is available to you:

- We are following updates from federal, state, local agencies and working closely with many of you on addressing your inquiries as COVID-19 evolves.
- We have established a web page with resources. (www.npaihb.org/covid-19)
- We are holding Tribal update calls on Tuesdays at 10:00am.

Where: ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/302476683>

Topic: COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 302 476 683

If you have any COVID-19 specific questions, please contact Victoria Warren-Mears, NPAIHB Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center Director at 503-998-

6063. Victoria is responding to all COVID-19 calls and will connect you with staff and/or other resources that may be available to assist you.

We understand that circumstances are changing rapidly so we will continue to provide regular updates to you. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this very difficult time. **Please know that I am also available to you if you have any questions at (503) 407-4082.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Platero".

Laura Platero, JD (Navajo)
Executive Director
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board