



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor  
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary  
Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H., Director

January 21, 2021

**RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 21-02: COVID Vaccine**

Dear Tribal Leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Providers, and Other Interested Parties:

Seeking advice and comments from New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers is an important component of the government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico. In accordance with the New Mexico Human Services Department's (HSD's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting comments until **5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) February 21, 2021**, regarding implementing a change in benefit coverage.

Effective January 22, 2021, New Mexico Medicaid is implementing a change in benefit coverage by adding the COVID vaccine and vaccine administration. The Human Services Department will cover COVID vaccine and vaccine administration in accordance with Medicare's billing and reimbursement guidance.

**Tribal Impact**

This change is a positive one for Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers. The benefit change will enable more individuals to receive the COVID vaccine.

**Tribal Advice and Comments**

Tribes and their healthcare providers may view the proposed changes, on the HSD webpage at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> **Tribal Notification 21-02.**

**Important Dates**

**Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) February 21, 2021.** Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, **Theresa Belanger**, at **(505) 827-3122** or by email at: [Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us](mailto:Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us). All written comments received will be posted on the HSD website at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> along with this notification letter. The public posting will include the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H.  
State Medicaid Director