

# TAKE ACTION TO GET ROUTINE VACCINATIONS BACK ON-SCHEDULE

**Adult vaccinations provide tremendous protective health benefits and are a critical component of routine healthcare. Despite this, there has been a concerning drop in routine immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

While some vaccine preventable diseases appear to be rare, they are still circulating in certain parts of the world. When a group of people fall behind on their vaccines, these diseases have an opportunity to reemerge, causing outbreaks — and potential deaths — in our communities once again.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a concerning drop in routine immunizations for adults and children. While nothing can address the loss of Elders, siblings, knowledge keepers, and relatives, we can take necessary steps to prevent further disease outbreaks in these communities by working together to get vaccinations back on schedule.



## Immunizations help create health equity for all.



- Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective medical interventions, generating cost savings through reduced treatments for illness and hospitalizations
- In the U.S., more children are fully vaccinated than adults even though adults are much more likely to die from vaccine preventable diseases than children
- Vaccines have saved more lives throughout the world than any other medical invention, including antibiotics or surgery

## Recent surveys indicated health care professionals as the most trusted source of health information among American Indian and Alaska Native respondents.<sup>1</sup>

Trusted sources and messengers are key in addressing gaps in vaccine uptake. Health care providers and organizations are the greatest sources of trusted information regarding COVID-19, including among hesitant adopters.

### Strategies to encourage vaccinations:

- ✓ Prioritize ensuring everyone catches up on routine vaccination
- ✓ Identify individuals behind on their vaccinations
- ✓ Encourage vaccination catch-up through reminders, recall, and outreach
- ✓ Make strong vaccine recommendations
- ✓ Make the process of getting vaccines easy to find, simple, and quick



In a recent nationwide survey, American Indian /Alaska Natives were asked how they would prefer to receive vaccine information. The most frequent responses were to get a letter in the mail, or a handout or poster from their healthcare provider.<sup>2</sup>

## Resources to get routine vaccinations back on track

Below are a few evidence based resources to encourage catch up on routine vaccinations and to communicate why being up to date on immunizations is important to keep individuals and communities healthy.



### 1. Support a Culture of Vaccination in Your Practice

[ [cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/your-practice.html](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/your-practice.html) ]



### 2. Communicate Effectively for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

[ [uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/COVID-19-Vaccination-Messaging-Guide\\_UIHIFormat.pdf](https://uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/COVID-19-Vaccination-Messaging-Guide_UIHIFormat.pdf) ]



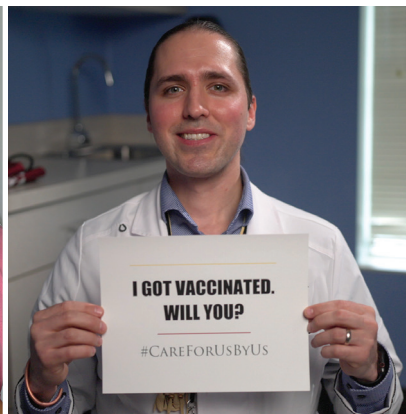
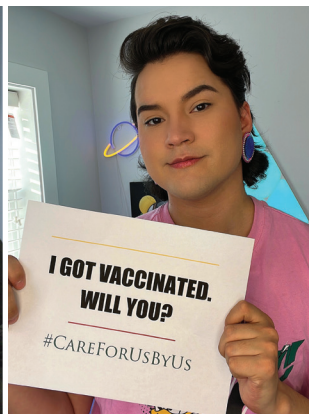
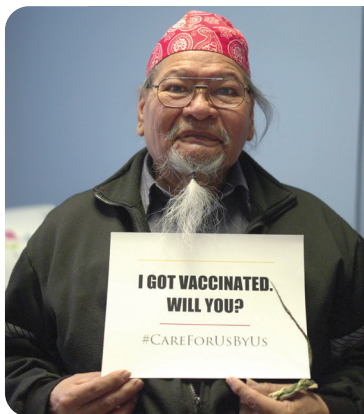
### 3. Use reminder and recall systems to encourage vaccination

[ [cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/reminder-sys.html](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/reminder-sys.html) ]



### 4. Use Culturally Appropriate Social Media Messaging

[ [keepitsacred.itcni.org/vaccineequity](https://keepitsacred.itcni.org/vaccineequity) ]



Adapted from CDC's Let's RISE initiative: [cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html)

<sup>1</sup> Urban Indian Health Institute, COVID-19 Vaccination Survey, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Urban Indian Health Institute, 2

This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$5,177,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS through NNPHI. The contents of this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

