

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! Webinar: Difference Between the Influenza Vaccine and the Vaccine for COVID-19

Wednesday, January 6th; 2-3pm ET / [Register Here](#)

Join NIHB and a speaker from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to learn more about the differences between the Influenza vaccine and the vaccine for COVID-19. Both Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses and COVID-19 is caused by infection with a coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are alike, it is hard to distinguish them by symptoms only and testing is needed. Flu vaccination has many important benefits; this vaccine can decrease the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death, but getting a flu vaccine will not protect us against COVID-19. These two disease, share many similar characteristics, but there are some key differences between them.

On December 25th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an [Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19 for individuals 18 years of age and older.

This EUA represents the second vaccine authorized for the prevention of COVID-19. Operation Warp Speed and private sector partners now begin distributing the first allocation of doses to sites designated by the public health jurisdictions and five federal agencies with which OWS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been working to plan distribution. HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II and Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller [have issued statements on this next step](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated information and recommendations for [winter holidays](#). The safest way to celebrate the holidays is at home with the people who live with you. [Travel](#) and [gatherings](#) with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). Travel may increase your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. CDC continues to recommend postponing travel and staying home, as this is the best way to protect yourself and others this year.

Please visit the [IHS coronavirus webpage](#) for the latest information.

Wildland Fire Research Tribal Listening Sessions

January 26, 2021; 2-4pm EST / [Register Here](#)

January 27, 2021; 2-4pm EST / [Register Here](#)

EPA Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Air and Energy National Research Program invites tribes to participate in the Wildland Fire Research Listening Session! This session will include:

- A short overview of current ORD research on wildland fires. • Listening sessions for tribes to inform ORD’s update to its Wildland Fire Research plan.
- Overview of key resources currently available to tribes ([AirNow Fire and Smoke Map Pilot Project](#), Smoke Sense, [Smoke Ready Toolbox for Wildfires](#), Wildfire Smoke Guide, etc.).

Updates to Asthma Management Guidelines

The [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#) (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, has just released updates to its Asthma Management Guidelines, which help health care providers around the country treat people with asthma. The new recommendations focus on six priority topic areas for methods used to manage asthma:

1. **Inhaled corticosteroids** help control inflammation in the airways and can be used for recurrent wheezing or persistent asthma.
2. **Long-acting antimuscarinic agents**, a type of inhaled medication that helps keep airway muscles relaxed, can be used with inhaled corticosteroids for long-term asthma management.
3. **Reducing exposure to indoor asthma triggers** can be done using a number of methods, many of which will be familiar to members of [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](#)
4. **Immunotherapy**—allergy shots containing very small amounts of allergens—can help some people with allergic asthma become less sensitive to allergens.
5. **Fractional exhaled nitric oxide tests** can help some patients manage asthma and providers confirm an asthma diagnosis. These tests measure nitric oxide, which can increase when airways are inflamed.
6. **Bronchial thermoplasty**—a procedure that uses heat to reduce muscle around the airways—can help treat some adults with persistent asthma.

To read about the new recommendations in more detail, [download the full report](#) from NHLBI.

FEMA is seeking feedback on the recently updated [“Comprehensive Preparedness Guide \(CPG\) 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans](#) (this link is to draft pdf document 2.4Mb)”

This document provides guidelines on developing emergency operations plans and promotes a common understanding of the fundamentals of community-based, risk-informed planning and decision making to help planners examine a threat or hazard and produce integrated, coordinated, and synchronized plans.

FEMA will host a series of 60-minute webinar sessions to discuss changes to the updated CPG 101 and gather feedback from whole community partners. The sessions will include facilitated discussions with stakeholders to help improve the

existing draft. For more information about the FEMA planning guides and webinars please visit this [website](#).

Please provide any comments, or recommendations by the close of business on *January 25, 2021*. Email feedback or any questions to

NPDPlanning@fema.dhs.gov

FEMA Tribal Affairs: Tribal governments and their members are an essential part of our nation's emergency management team. Effective relationships with tribes are necessary to fulfill FEMA's mission of working together to improve our nation's disaster preparedness and response. FEMA is committed to supporting Indian Country in its efforts to build more resilient and better prepared communities.

The FEMA National Tribal Affairs Advisor is Denise Bambi Kraus at (202) 212-7215 or Bambi.Kraus@fema.dhs.gov.

The 2020 Tribal Air Resources Journal in Region 5 has been released! The Tribal Air Resources Journal was started by Tribes in EPA Region 5 to better publicize Tribal Air Quality Program achievements, progression, and struggles to their Tribal communities as well as in Indian Country. The Journal provides Tribes with a platform to promote their accomplishments and successes along with sharing obstacles and setbacks encountered along the way. **You can access the 2020 Tribal Air Resources Journal on [NTAA's website here](#).**

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality 2021 Call for Proposals!

Deadline for submissions is February 10, 2021

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) brings together environmental professionals from Tribes, U.S. EPA, and other agencies and organizations to DISCUSS current policy initiatives, EXPLORE up-to-date technology solutions, and SHARE practical knowledge and experiences from tribal air quality programs nationwide. The NTFAQ planning committee is actively seeking proposals for presentations. Please click on this [LINK](#) for more information and instructions to submit a proposal abstract.

The Forum is open to attendees from across Indian Country, as well as U.S. EPA and other local and national partners working to improve human health and the environment. For More Information Contact: Andy.Bessler@nau.edu, Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu, and/or Christopher.Lee@nau.edu

NTAA Upcoming Calls

The toll-free number is 1-800-309-2350. If you do not need to call toll free, or would like to help conserve NTAA funding, you can call 1-805-309-2350. Both numbers use code 928-523-0526#. Contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu if you have any questions about any call! ***Registration instructions*** When you register for the GoToWebinar, please remember to include your Tribe, Region, or Organization in

parenthesis after your last name. This allows you to see everyone on the call and prevents us from conducting a roll-call, ultimately saving everyone's time.

Planning Call for the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ): This monthly call works to plan the 2021 NTFAQ.	Monday, January 4, 3:30pm ET
Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, January 7, 2pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, January 21, 2pm ET
EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, January 28, 2pm ET
Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, February 18, 2pm ET

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional's (ITEP's) [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#) includes conferences, trainings, webinars and other events related to tribes and climate change.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's other trainings and events.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. New courses have been added, so check it out!

ITEP's [FY20 AIAQTP Course Schedule](#)

Course Title	Dates	Location	Course Level
	2020		
Air Pollution Technology <i>(Postponed!)</i>	TBD	Flagstaff, AZ	2
Meteorological Monitoring <i>(Postponed!)</i>	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Pollution Modeling	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3

Air Quality Outreach	TBD	TBD	1
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) (<i>Postponed!</i>)	May 2021	Tulsa, OK	n/a
Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke	Anytime	Series of 6 recorded webinars	n/a
Indoor Air Quality - Independent Study	Anytime	Independent Study	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates	Open	Online	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Warm Climates	In development	Online	1
Residential Building Science Review	Open	Online	1
Radon Fundamentals	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Fundamentals (QA 101)	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (QA 201-209)	Open	Online	2
Emissions Inventory Fundamentals	Open	Online	2
Emissions Inventory Advanced	Open	Online	3
<p><i>Note: This schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications please visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/</i></p>			

Climate Change / Energy

ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!
[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

The recent additions to OTAQ's website in December 2020 are listed below.
[You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.](#)

- December 28, 2020: [EPA finalizes greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emission standards that apply to certain new commercial airplanes, including all large passenger jets.](#)
- December 28, 2020: [EPA finalizes changes to the test procedures for heavy-duty engines and vehicles to improve accuracy and reduce testing burden.](#)

- December 28, 2020: [EPA publishes a report that provides information on how refiners and importers have complied with gasoline sulfur standards from the years 2011-2019.](#)

MOVES3 Posted on EPA Website

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality is pleased to announce the web posting of the latest version of the MOtor Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3. This state-of-the-science upgrade to EPA's modeling tools replaces the MOVES2014 series of models as EPA's latest model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment. Compared to the previous MOVES2014 modeling tool, MOVES3 allows users to model the benefits from new regulations promulgated since MOVES2014 was released, incorporates the latest vehicle and emissions data, and has improved functionality. EPA will be publishing a *Federal Register* notice to announce the availability of MOVES3 for official purposes. The [MOVES webpage](#) is the source for MOVES3 software as well as a detailed "Question and Answer" document, MOVES Policy Guidance, MOVES Technical Guidance, technical reports that document the data and algorithms used in MOVES3, tools for use with MOVES, and information on MOVES training.

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Indoor Air Quality

NEW! Summary of Evidence Related to Indoor Ventilation to Reduce SARS-CoV-2 Transmission | December 21, 2020

Mitigation of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in indoor spaces is crucial, especially during the winter season when activities are mostly held in enclosed indoor environments. Understanding SARS-CoV-2 transmission mechanisms relating to ventilation of indoor air and what evidence-based environmental measures are available will be key to infection control. *This document is a brief summary of published evidence on SARS-CoV-2 transmission mechanisms that relate to ventilation of indoor spaces and ventilation standards/best practices for minimizing spread.* References are mainly drawn from the COVID-19 Literature Report (Lit Rep) team database and guidelines published by the CDC. References that appeared in the daily Lit Rep are marked with an asterisk*, and the summary is shown in the annotated bibliography [here](#). Published by the Washington State Department of Health.

SAVE THE DATE: Solutions for Managing In-Home Environmental Asthma Triggers During the Pandemic

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Webinar: 2:00–3:00 p.m. EST | Q&A: 3:00–3:30 p.m. EST

Join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and experts from around the country for a live panel discussion about strategies for and lessons learned about delivering in-home asthma care and environmental interventions during the pandemic, including virtual home visits. Please visit www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/node/17205 for more information.

Comment Period Open for EPA’s Indoor airPLUS Version 2 New Construction Specifications

EPA’s Indoor Environments Division has opened a public comment period with the release of newly proposed requirements for the Indoor airPLUS Program, EPA’s voluntary label for improved indoor air quality (IAQ) in new homes. EPA is requesting feedback from interested parties and stakeholders on the proposed Version 2 of the Indoor airPLUS New Construction Specifications. EPA seeks to continuously improve its Indoor airPLUS program guidance and materials in response to partner and stakeholder feedback, revised industry standards, and evolving best practices in building science and home performance. More information on Indoor airPLUS can be found online at epa.gov/indoorairplus. EPA is conducting a comment period *December 18, 2020* through *March 17, 2021* on these draft specifications. The draft documents and instructions for submitting comments [are available here](#).

When sending feedback to Indoor_airPLUS@epa.gov, you are encouraged to use the Word Document Comment Tool for formatting your comments. If you chose another format, please send your comments in an attachment with your name and organization at the top. Where possible, please reference the specific item numbers and, if applicable, provide suggested changes that would address your concern. Please do not submit marked-up versions of the draft specifications as your attachment.

EPA representatives held the [Indoor airPLUS Version 2 webinar](#) on November 10 to provide context and background on many of the newly proposed Indoor airPLUS Version 2 Construction Specifications. To access the recording, please [enter your information and click “Register”](#).

Be sure to subscribe to [CodeTalk](#), HUD’s Office of Native American Programs newsletter, for webinars and opportunities!