

# UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

## *Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes*

### **Webinar: Difference Between the Influenza Vaccine and the Vaccine for COVID-19**

*Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>; 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.

### **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.)

### **NEW! Webinar—Communicating Air Quality During Fires: the Science Behind the AirNow Sensor Data Pilot**

*Thursday, January 28; 1-3pm EST / [Register Here](#)*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted the AirNow Sensor Data Pilot during the 2020 fire season to provide the public with air sensor information on the air pollutant, fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), especially during smoke events from fires. The sensor data is shown on the [Fire and Smoke Map](#), part of the popular [AirNow.gov](#) website. This webinar will provide an overview of the AirNow Sensor Data Pilot and the development of the U.S.-wide correction equation for PurpleAir PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensor data and its appropriateness for correcting PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements during smoke events.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Andy.Bessler@nau.edu), [Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu](mailto:Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu), and/or [Christopher.Lee@nau.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

<b>Planning Call for the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ):</b> This monthly call works to plan the 2021 NTFAQ.	Monday, January 4, 3:30pm ET
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<b>Mobile Sources Work Group:</b> This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, January 7, 2pm ET
<b>Wood Smoke Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, January 21, 2pm ET
<b>EPA Policy Call:</b> Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, January 28, 2pm ET
<b>Indoor Air Quality Work Group:</b> 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
	<b>2020</b>		
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 <a href="http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/">http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/</a></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.](#)

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## **Indoor Air Quality**

### **NEW! January National Radon Action Month**

This January is National Radon Action Month (NRAM). Every January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges everyone across the United States to test their homes for radon gas. [Radon](#) is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can seep into homes from the ground. It is both colorless and odorless, so the only way to know if you have high levels in your home is to test.

[Testing for radon](#) is easy, inexpensive and can be done yourself. Test kits can be purchased online, or individuals can hire a qualified professional to conduct a radon test. [Contact your state or tribal radon program](#) for advice.

### **5 Radon Health Facts You Need to Know:**

1. Breathing radon in your home can cause lung cancer.
2. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.
3. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year.
4. Elevated radon levels have been found in every state.
5. Addressing radon in your home is one of the best ways to prevent cancer for you and your family.

### **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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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!**