



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

February 25, 2022

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 22-09: Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling

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) March 28, 2022**, regarding proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0011 Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling.

Effective January 1, 2022, the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) is updating its state plan to conform with Section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) which requires state Medicaid programs to cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling for children under age 21 as part of the Early and Periodic Screening, and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) benefit.

Tribal Impact

The HSD anticipates a positive impact for Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers. The proposed change expands current services provided through the EPSDT benefit.

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/> **Tribal Notification 22-09.**

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) March 28, 2022. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, **Theresa Belanger**, at (505) 670-8067 or by email at: 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/> along with this notification letter. The public posting will include the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

Tribal Leadership may request a government-to-government consultation by March 28, 2022. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Comeaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "C".

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