



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Prevention and Community Health  
Post Office Box 47830  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7830  
711 Washington Relay Service

February 21, 2024

Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners -

**SUBJECT: Collaboration - Seeking Health Care Providers for Power of Providers (POP) Advisory Group**

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people.

In 2021, Governor Inslee and the Secretary of Health Dr. Umair Shah established the [POP initiative](#) to better understand and overcome barriers to COVID-19 vaccination through partnerships with health care providers. The POP Advisory Group fosters two-way communication to inform public health policy and programs. The group meets the first Thursday of each month from 1:00 - 2:00 via Microsoft Teams.

The group is a multi-specialty team of health care providers from across the state, including medical doctors, naturopathic physicians, nurses, physical therapists, mental health specialists, pharmacists, and more. The team engages in rich dialogue with DOH about community health issues, as well as recommendations on how to address those issues. Tribal participation is critical to better understand the public health needs impacting indigenous peoples and to partner on recommended solutions.

**To participate, please recommend a licensed health care provider of any specialty** by contacting COVID-19 Vaccine Partnerships Program Coordinator Sheila Hosner at [sheila.hosner@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sheila.hosner@doh.wa.gov) or 360-764-0788. For tribal related matters, please contact Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations Executive Director Candice Wilson-Quatz'teanut at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts MPH, MCHES  
Assistant Secretary - Division of Prevention and Community Health  
Washington State Department of Health

Cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH - Secretary of Health - Department of Health  
Jessica Todorovich - Chief of Staff - Department of Health  
Kristin Peterson - Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation - Department of Health  
Elizabeth Perez - Chief of Public Affairs and Equity - Department of Health  
Kristopher Holiday - Chief of Strategic Partnerships - Department of Health  
Candice Wilson-Quatz'teanut (Lummi) - OTPHR Executive Director - Department of Health  
Lacy Fehrenbach - Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health - Department of Health  
Heather Drummond - COVID-19 Vaccine Director - Department of Health  
Sheila Hosner - Partnerships Program Coordinator - Department of Health