



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

June 2, 2022

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 22-16: COVID-19 Coverage and Reimbursement

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) July 3, 2022**, regarding proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0017 COVID-19 Coverage and Reimbursement.

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) is updating its state plan to attest to coverage and reimbursement of COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine administration, testing and treatment without cost sharing. Effective March 11, 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act), New Mexico Medicaid covers COVID-19 vaccines and administration of the vaccines, COVID-19 testing, and treatment specifically for COVID-19 (including preventive therapies).

Tribal Impact

This change is a positive one for Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers. The benefit change will enable more individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatment.

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 22-16.**

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) July 3, 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 July 3, 2022. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,



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