

# Daily Updates

## Native Americans, other communities at color, at higher risk of COVID-19 in the work place

As news of the COVID-19 vaccine starts to become clearer, the only thing we know for sure is that people will be getting it in a pre-determined order that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently working on.

As they are in the process of determining who should get it first, new reports are being released that show it is even worse for communities of color than previously thought. As the Urban Institute's study determined, the reason it's more difficult for communities of color is obvious.

We find that Black, Native American, and Hispanic/Latinx

workers are more likely than white workers to have jobs that place them at greater risk of exposure to and transmission of the coronavirus. More than half of all Black, Native American, and Hispanic/Latinx workers have essential or nonessential jobs that must be done in person and close to others, compared with 41 percent of white workers.

The problem that runs rampant, as many of us known for Native American communities, is the living situation that many Native families have.

In addition, Black, Native American, and Hispanic/Latinx workers who must work in person and close to others

have lower incomes than white workers in these jobs and are less likely to have health insurance. Finally, Black, Native American, and Hispanic/Latinx households face greater risks of transmission of the virus at home because they are more likely to have a worker who works in person and close to others and to live in households with multiple generations of adults.

Access to the vaccine will prove to be difficult in many of these communities as the Urban Institute describes here because of the typical lack of health insurance in these essential jobs. The importance of how these communities get the

vaccine will be an significant task for local governments as doses become available.

Importantly, with safe, effective vaccines emerging for COVID-19, it is essential that distribution of free or very low-cost vaccines be prioritized for essential workers whose jobs place them in frequent contact with others. Efforts to vaccinate workers should encourage voluntary receipt while accounting for workers' potential concerns about vaccine safety and cost. At the same time, the roll out of the vaccine will need to be accompanied by outreach campaigns developed and implemented with community

input, using trusted messengers and health care providers. In addition, government officials will need to earn and sustain trust regarding the safety of any COVID-19 vaccine.

Fond du Lac will also certainly have our medical officials available with all important information regarding the vaccines once FDL has doses for Band members, communities members, and employees.

*Source: <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/how-risk-exposure-coronavirus-work-varies-race-and-ethnicity-and-how-protect-health-and-well-being-workers-and-their-families>*

## Three former presidents vow to get vaccinated publicly

All three of the most recent former presidents have vowed to get the vaccine once it becomes available, and all have agreed to do so in a public format to encourage others to get vaccinated as well.

The most recent of the three, President Barack Obama, is one of the two former presidents to work directly with Dr. Anthony Fauci, and that close contact is exactly why he'll get vaccinated.

"People like Anthony Fauci, who I know, and I've worked with, I trust completely. So, if Anthony Fauci tells me this vaccine is safe and can vaccinate — you know, immunize you — from getting COVID, absolutely, I'm going to take it," President

Obama said. "I may end up taking it on TV or having it filmed, just so that people know that I trust this science, and what I don't trust is getting COVID."

The 43rd, President George W. Bush, said via an aide that he too would receive the vaccine and would gladly do so on a camera.

"First, the vaccines need to be deemed safe and administered to the priority populations. Then, President Bush will get in line for his, and will gladly do so on camera," Freddy Ford, Bush's aide, said.

His predecessor, President Bill Clinton, said via his press secretary that he would definitely get one once it was safe and he was able to get one.

"President Clinton will definitely take a vaccine as soon as available to him, based on the priorities determined by public health officials. And he will do it in a public setting if it will help urge all Americans to do the same," his press secretary Angel Urena said.

The former three presidents announcing that they will get a vaccine once available, shows that this isn't and shouldn't be a political debate. The three (2 Democrats and 1 Republican) show that the virus doesn't care who you are or what your political affiliation is, we should all get a vaccine once available to keep our communities safe.

## Governor Walz Certifies Minnesota's 2020 Electors

Governor Tim Walz yesterday fulfilled his duty to sign 21 Certificates of Election: 10 for Minnesota's presidential electors, 10 for Minnesota's alternate presidential electors, and one for Minnesota's 2020 U.S. Senate election.

"Minnesota has ranked number one in the country for voter turnout three elections in a row now," said Governor Walz. "In an election like none other in our history, Minnesotans across the state made their voices heard and the results of this election are clear. Today, I fulfilled my duty as Governor to certify Minnesota's electors who will vote on behalf of our state for President-Elect Joe Biden, as well as Senator Tina Smith's election to the U.S. Senate. I would like to thank all of our poll workers, the State Canvassing Board, and the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office for their excellent work on behalf of our state."

According to the Minnesota Secretary of State, nearly 3.3 million voters turned out in Minnesota for the 2020 election. That means 79.96 percent of eligible Minnesotans participated in the 2020 General Election, marking the highest percentage turnout since 1956, and the highest total number of voters ever. More than 1.9 million Minnesotans cast absentee ballots this year.