



**Steve Bullock, Governor**

**Sheila Hogan, Director**

July 8, 2020

The Honorable [First Name] [Last Name]  
[Title]  
[Company Name]  
[Address Line 1]  
[City], [State] [Zip Code]

**Re: Waiver Extension of Tribal Health Improvement Program (T-HIP) Reporting Requirements during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dear [Title] [Last Name]:

With the current state of emergency that exists in the State of Montana and across the nation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is providing some additional direction related to the Tribal Health Improvement Program (T-HIP), in particular the reporting requirements outlined in the task order.

We fully understand that tribal governments have taken the necessary steps and measures to ensure their membership remain healthy and unaffected by COVID-19 and to find ways to limit its spread across the state. As a result, many have implemented Incident Command Centers, passed tribal resolutions to close during this pandemic with only essential staff and programs operating, and many have issued their own stay at home directives in order to limit the spread, just as Governor Bullock has done for the State of Montana.

**Originally waived through June 30, 2020, the Department of Public Health and Human Services is now extending the waiver on T-HIP reporting requirements through the end of the State of Emergency.** Therefore, any T-HIP Tier 1, 2 or 3 reports due will not be required to be submitted until the State of Emergency is lifted and the Department instructs tribal governments of reinstatement. The Department will continue to provide monthly payments to the T-HIP program and also continue to send the monthly attribution lists; however, there is no expectation during this waiver that those reports be completed and returned.

We value the partnership we share with you and it is important we work together to keep Montanans safe, mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure reduced exposure and transmission. The Department is committed to responding to Tribal needs in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Lisa James, IHS/Tribal 638 Section Supervisor, at (406) 444-5778 or by email at or by email at [Lisa.James@mt.gov](mailto:Lisa.James@mt.gov) or Lesa Evers, Tribal Relations Manager, at (406) 444-1813 or by email at [levers@mt.gov](mailto:levers@mt.gov). Stay in touch.

Respectfully,

Marie Matthews  
State Medicaid Director

c: [Tribal Health Director]  
Darci Wiebe, Administrator, Health Resources Division, DPHHS  
Lesla Evers, Tribal Relations Manager, DPHHS  
Lisa James, IHS/Tribal 638 Section Supervisor, DPHHS