

Clinic report at Council on coronavirus, flu

Indian Health Services and community health workers updated Tribal Council last week on how the clinic has responded to the coronavirus outbreak: The virus is mainly affecting China, though the disease is present in many other countries, including the U.S.

IHS made an inventory of masks that can be used to stop the spread of a virus; and made orders for additional resources, said Diane Fuller, Nurse. Masks are available at the reception area of the clinic. The response would be similar to the response to a flu pandemic, Ms. Fuller said.

The clinic team was also working on a response plan, were the virus to make its way onto the reservation. Tribal Emergency Management and county health partners are also part of the planning. Public education is another important component of the response plan, Ms. Fuller said.

There were 12 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., as of earlier this week. Oregon had not re-

ported a coronavirus diagnosis, though California had seen six confirmed cases, and Washington State reported one case.

Worldwide—mostly in China—more than 1,000 had died from the coronavirus, while more than 42,000 had been diagnosed with the disease. Some even believe these numbers are low, as the outbreak has strained China's health resources.

Regular flu season

Ms. Fuller said the coronavirus is a serious matter, though the regular flu

remains a significant health concern: This season a reported 8,500 people in the U.S. had died from the flu, she said.

During the current season, Community Health and IHS had administered approximately 2,025 vaccinations to clients, with 200 coming in January. This is good coverage, though the population of the immediate area is in the range of 6,000 people. So health workers were continuing to encourage people to get a vaccination, especially the young, elderly and otherwise vulnerable.



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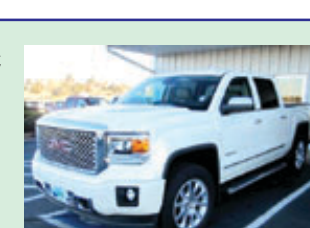
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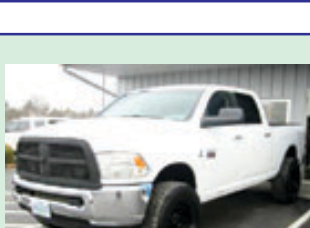
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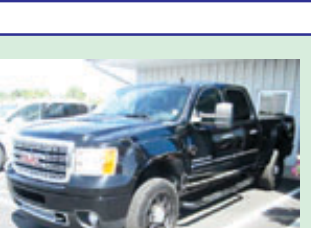
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