

# IHS updates Covid-19 numbers

The Indian Health Service has updated its coronavirus data, showing results as of August 9. According to the data, 35,631 tests have returned positive for Covid-19.

That represents an increase of 0.78 percent from the 35,355 cases previously reported.

Altogether, 537,762 coronavirus tests have been administered through August 9, the data shows. That marks an increase of 0.55 percent from the day prior.

The low growth rates are typical of lulls in data seen during weekends. But since July 21, there has been a slow-down in coronavirus activity within the IHS.

Overall, 6.6 percent of IHS coronavirus tests have returned positive, according to the data. But the rate is far higher in the Phoenix Area, where almost 17.1 percent are positive.

Next is the Navajo Area, which serves the largest reservation in the United States. But even with about 15.1 percent of tests returning positive, the rate has fallen steadily over the last month, following a noticeable decline as the region with the highest rate.

The Nashville Area, which covers a wide area of Indian Country, including the South and Northeastern parts of the U.S., also continues to show a high positive rate of 8.9 percent.

On the other end of the spectrum, aggressive efforts in the Alaska Area are turning up very few cases. Out of 106,659 tests administered in

Alaska, only 0.65 percent have returned positive, the data shows.

The Alaska Area also outnumbers every other area—including Navajo—in terms of tests administered. The Oklahoma City Area has fallen back to the second spot.

The data, however, is incomplete. While 100 percent of facilities run directly by the IHS are reporting data,

only 33 percent of tribally managed facilities and 44 percent of urban Indian organizations are doing the same.

The service population for 2019 is 2,562,290. Based on that figure, about 21 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have been tested for the coronavirus since the IHS began reporting data in March.



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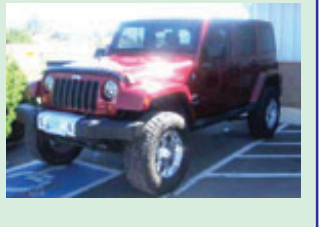
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