

TCC Ramps Up Safety Measures Amidst COVID-19 Surge

At the beginning of September, Alaska experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases – causing hospitals and health-care facilities to become overwhelmed. The surge is directly linked to the new COVID-19 Delta Variant, a mutation of the original virus strain that has proven to be more contagious, has a faster onset of infections, has more severe symptoms, affects people of all ages, and can infect those who have already been vaccinated. This combination of factors has caused the virus to spread rapidly throughout the State. In an effort to mitigate the impact on our

healthcare systems, Tanana Chiefs Conference has implemented the following safety measures:

- Visitors to our facilities must have scheduled appointments prior to entering (with the exception of medication pick-up at the Pharmacy).
- Masks are required to be worn at all TCC locations and will be strictly enforced.
- Social distancing is required at facilities – with some TCC staff on work-from-home status to ensure adequate distancing.
- The Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall in Fairbanks is closed for events.

These are just a few of the safety precautions being implemented and while these measures will assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19 at our facilities – we need participation from the general public to keep our communities safe. This means – wearing a mask when out in public, keeping distance from those who do not live in your household, monitoring any new onset of symptoms and most importantly – getting your COVID-19 vaccine.



Win Up To \$5,000 Cash!

Anyone living in Interior Alaska who is fully vaccinated can enter to win!

Learn more on **Page 4!**



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MISSION STATEMENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

VISION

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby
1st Traditional Chief

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
2nd Traditional Chief

PJ Simon/Allakaket/Galena
Chief/Chairman

Charlene Stern/Arctic Village
Vice President

Charlie Wright/Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit/Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska/Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James/Fort Yukon
Yukon Flats

Eugene Paul/Holy Cross
Lower Yukon

Frank Thompson/Evansville
Yukon Tanana

Norman 'Carl' Burgett/Huslia
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Alex Hanna/Minto
Youth Advisor

CHIEF'S REPORT



Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

I would like to start off by offering my thoughts and prayers to the entire region as we mourn the loss of our First Traditional Chief Donald Honea Sr. of Ruby. TCC was honored to have Chief Honea's guidance, leadership and service throughout the years. We will continue to carry forward and share his legacy. You can learn more about Chief Honea on page 3 of this newsletter.

As we move through fall, I hope you and your family have had success in harvesting our traditional foods in preparation for winter.

This year many families were unable to practice their traditional way of life and put away fish for the winter due to the ongoing salmon decline. TCC has worked to bridge the real and immediate need of our people by delivering donated salmon to tribes to distribute to their community members. Please keep in mind that this fish decline has been years in the making, and will take years to resolve. Not only was the salmon greatly missed as a food source, it was also greatly missed as a part of the critical traditional harvest activities for our families. Our young people spend time learning and working with parents and elders in preparing this traditional food source.

Moose is another traditional food source, and a much needed staple that can help get our people to spring. Traditional hunting also brings families together in learning and practicing what is important to us, and this includes self-reliance with harvest while protecting a very important food source.

TCC would like to give a big thank you to Doyon, Limited for their reallocation of \$2 million from the CARES Act funding to TCC for Lifewater systems for our rural communities. These systems provide in-home solutions for water and sewer when there is not a piped community wide system or haul system in place. This will greatly assist rural tribal members in obtaining a healthier solution in their homes to combat not only COVID-19, but other health conditions related to the lack of running water and sewer systems. Thank you again, Doyon, Limited!

COVID-19 and the Delta variant have continued to be a very difficult burden on all of us. We remember those we have lost, and encourage everyone who is eligible to please get vaccinated. By getting the vaccine, getting the booster, once it becomes available and practicing safety measures, we have a chance to curb the spread and lessen the negative impacts of this terrible virus. During the current spike of the Delta variant, which is leading to our healthcare system being overwhelmed, it is important to limit our gatherings, hunker down and mask whenever interacting with people outside of your household. Our children and elders deserve all we can do, to continue to protect them. Only together can we achieve our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Anaa Baaseé,
PJ Simon
Chief/Chairman

TCC Mourns the Passing of First Traditional Chief Don Honea Sr.

TCC region lost one of our great leaders - First Traditional Chief Donald Honea Sr. of Ruby. Chief Honea passed away surrounded by family and friends at the age of 90 on September 21st, 2021. Chief Honea has served as First Traditional Chief of the Tanana Chiefs Conference region since 2008 and has spent much of his life dedicated to serving the Alaska Native People.

Before retiring, he worked for the State of Alaska DOT for 35 years as an equipment operator and foreman. Chief Honea was also a founder of the Ruby Native Council and Dineega



Corporation. He served as president for 20 years of the Dineega Corporation, served on the local Community School Committee for 30 years, served on the City Council for about 25 years, and was both mayor and council member of Ruby. He also served on the boards of Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Koyukon Development and RurAL CAP. He was also an original board member of the Yukon Koyukuk School District where he served as chairman.

In addition to his leadership, Chief Honea also was a dog musher and had run the Iditarod Sled Dog Race

seven times. He grew up living in Ruby living off the land, trapping, fishing and using dogs for travel in the winter. Together he and his wife Clara had 14 children.

We are honored that Chief Honea chose to share his life story as part of our Legacy of Our Elders series. In his video he encouraged future generations to pursue their goals. "Perseverance – Whatever [you] decide in life, don't give up on it."

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for his guidance, leadership, and service throughout the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the community of Ruby during this difficult time.



DON'T MISS YOUR SHOT!

We will be doing monthly drawings for the months of October, November and December *and* a grand prize drawing in December.

MONTHLY PRIZES

Adult Prizes (Age 18+)

1. \$500 cash
2. Beaded gloves made-to-order in your size

Youth Prizes (Age 12-17)

1. Apple iPad Air plus \$25 gift card
2. Nintendo Switch plus \$100 gift card
3. Wireless Beats Headphones
4. \$300 Amazon Gift Card

GRAND PRIZES

1. Trip for 2 anywhere Alaska Airlines flies (up to 40,000 miles per ticket) plus \$1,500 cash
2. \$5,000 cash
3. \$2,500 cash
4. \$1,000 cash plus a parka made-to-order in your size/preferred colors
5. \$300 cash plus a beaver fur hat made-to-order in your size/preferred colors

DEADLINES & WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

October: Entry Deadline Oct. 1st, Winners announced Oct. 13th

November: Entry Deadline Oct. 29th, Winners announced Nov. 10th

December: Entry Deadline Dec. 3rd, Winners announced Dec. 15th

ENTER OUR COVID-19 VACCINE GIVEAWAY!



WHAT IS THE GIVEAWAY FOR?

Tanana Chiefs Conference is proud to sponsor a COVID-19 Vaccine incentive program designed to motivate residents in Interior Alaska to get their COVID-19 vaccine! **All residents living in Interior Alaska who are fully vaccinated** for COVID-19 can enter to win. Our goal is to vaccinate everyone possible—to protect our elders, our youth, and all of our communities.

MONTHLY DRAWING

Each month 16 total winners will be drawn:

- 4 rural adults
- 4 urban adults
- 4 rural youth
- 4 urban youth

If you've won a monthly drawing, you are not eligible for a second monthly drawing, but you will be put back into the drawing for the grand prizes. Winner's vaccine status will be verified before prizes are awarded.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

On **December 15th, 2021**, 5 grand prize winners will be awarded. For each prize, there will be a rural and an urban winner.

HOW TO ENTER:

All you have to do to enter is complete the short online questionnaire on our website. You only have to enter the contest once to be entered for the monthly and grand prize drawings. Duplicate entries will be deleted.

Website: www.tananachiefs.org/vaccinegiveaway



Up to \$5,000 Cash



A Nintendo Switch



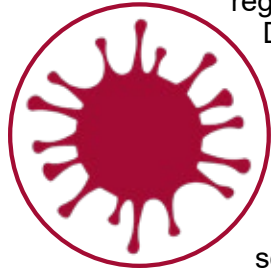
An Apple iPad Air



A \$300 Amazon Gift Card and Many More!

The Rumor Mill:

WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT ISN'T?



There is a lot of information out there regarding COVID-19, the Delta Variant and the Vaccines. Sometimes it can be difficult to determine what is true and what isn't. We had our health professionals answer some of these questions to provide clarification.

ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE?

This mRNA vaccine was able to be manufactured quickly based on technology that has been developed and tested over the last 20 years. Between the Pfizer and Moderna clinical trials, there were around 70,000 people enrolled, and all clinical trial steps were taken and reviewed by clinical experts before approvals were given. The vaccines were proven to be about 95% effective, with limited side effects.

DID THE COVID-19 VACCINE CAUSE THE DELTA VARIANT?

No. The Delta Variant is a mutation of the original virus strain. Mutations occur regularly among viruses especially those that are wide-spread. The more people who become infected the more likely a virus will mutate. There are currently multiple mutations of COVID-19 out there, but the Delta Variant has proven to be worse than the other strains which is why it is the main concern. Our best defense against the Delta Variant and other mutations is to do our part in reducing the spread of the virus, which means getting vaccinated, limit gatherings, social distance and mask when interacting with anyone from outside your household.

WHY GET THE VACCINE IF YOU CAN STILL BE INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

It's true that those who have the COVID-19 vaccine are still at risk of catching and spreading the virus – particularly with the new Delta Variant. However, the vaccine has been proven effective in significantly reducing the severity of symptoms among those who become infected. This means those who are vaccinated are less likely to become very ill or be hospitalized due to COVID-19.

SHOULD PEOPLE WHO ARE YOUNG AND WITHOUT UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS GET THE VACCINE?

Yes. While the original COVID-19 strain impacted the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, the Delta Variant does not discriminate with age. Young adults, teenagers, and even infants who have no underlying health conditions have become very sick when infected with COVID-19. It's also important to get the vaccine because even if you don't get ill from it – you risk passing the virus on to someone who will.

SHOULD I GET THE VACCINE IF I HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

Yes. Those who are vaccinated have greater immunity against the virus than those who were previously infected. Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from COVID-19 after you recover from a COVID-19 infection.

ARE MASKS STILL EFFECTIVE AGAINST SPREADING COVID-19?

Yes. Wearing a mask has been scientifically proven to reduce the spread of viruses, including COVID-19. It is advised that people wear a mask in public spaces and around people who do not live in their immediate household. The mask helps reduce the chances of catching COVID-19, as well as, significantly reduces the chance of spreading it when someone is positive. Especially those who caught the Delta variant and have very minor or no symptoms, they can still spread the virus and not realize it. The masks help protect those around you.

CAN WE STILL GATHER WITH OTHERS OUTSIDE OF OUR HOUSEHOLD?

No. At this time we don't recommend large gatherings or even moderately-sized gatherings with people outside of your household. With cases being widespread and with the Delta Variant proving to be more contagious, and the health care system being overwhelmed with very limited to no capacity of hospital beds for COVID-19 or other illnesses, it is not worth the risk of causing further outbreak.

HOW CAN I TELL IF IT'S ALLERGIES OR COVID-19?

The only way you can know for sure is to get tested as soon as you experience the onset of any new symptoms – even if you have seasonal allergies each year. So if you are experiencing a runny nose, headache, scratchy throat, etc. don't dismiss it – get tested!

CALL 907-451-6682 TO GET TESTED IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT SYMPTOMS

FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

FEMA is offering financial assistance for individuals who have incurred funeral expenses on or after January 20, 2020 from COVID-19.

As of September 13, \$426,535 have been awarded to 75 Alaskan applicants, but a minor percentage of Alaskans who have been affected by the loss of a loved one due to the COVID-19 pandemic have applied. Please share widely with your networks to help ensure our families, relatives and friends are receiving the most amount of support possible, during these challenging times.

How to apply:

Call 844-684-6333 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. The application is by phone (no online option), and will take 20 minutes to apply. After you have applied by phone, FEMA will send you a letter with the documents needed for submission, and how to submit them.

If you have questions, you may call FEMA at the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline: 844-684-6333.

Who is eligible?

- Death occurred in the United States.

- Death certificate indicate death was attributed to COVID-19.
- Applicant is a U.S. citizen who incurred funeral expenses.

Documentation you will need:

- An official death certificate that attributes death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows death occurred in the United States.
- Funeral expenses documents that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other resources used toward funeral costs. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits from other sources.

What funeral expenses are covered?

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance will assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation. Any receipts received for expenses that are not related to funeral services will not be determined eligible expenses. Expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation typically include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two

individuals to identify the deceased individual

- Transfer of remains
- Casket or urn
- Burial plot or cremation niche
- Marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- Arrangement of the funeral ceremony
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
- Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances

More information can be found at:

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq>

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/fema-begins-processing-covid-19-funeral-assistance-applications/>

Flu Season: Schedule Your Vaccine!

Flu season is here, and this season it's especially important to be proactive and schedule your yearly flu shot!

Flu season occurs in the fall and winter, usually peaking around late November and early March. The flu spreads through droplets when people sneeze or cough, and by touching contaminated surfaces. Those who contract the flu are contagious from day one, and symptoms appear up to a week after. When you don't feel well, it's best to take care of yourself and

those around you by staying home.

The CDC recommends everyone older than six months to get an annual flu vaccine as soon as the vaccine becomes available; October is the ideal time to get vaccinated.

If you don't like needles, you can always ask your doctor if the nasal flu spray is available. This is a great alternative and isn't invasive.

If you can help it, try to stay away from people who are sick, wash your

hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer, and avoid touching your face. Disinfect surfaces regularly that may be contaminated, and remember to cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, preferably with the inside of your arm rather than your hand.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it's crucial that we control the spread of the flu. Contact your doctor to schedule a flu vaccine this month!

Meeting Your *Vision Needs*

The TCC Eye Clinic is open Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. We are closed from noon to 1:00 pm for lunch daily and 11:00 am to noon for a staff meeting every Friday.

The TCC Eye Clinic provides eye care for all ages. You will not be responsible for any cost associated with the eye exam or any additional testing recommended by your eye doctor. If you require care beyond what we can provide at CAIHC you will be referred to an ophthalmologist, generally at ANMC. In order to get the best care for your eyes we work with ANMC to get you to the best specialist for your specific need.

Glasses and contact lenses are not covered by CAIHC. However, we are able to bill your insurance, such as Medicaid or Blue Cross. If your tribe has a program that pays for some or all of their members' eye glasses or contacts, we can contact them to see if you are eligible. Contact lens fittings are \$100 for new wearers and \$75 for refits. The contact lens fitting fee covers the additional time needed to perform the contact lens exam and fitting your trial contact lenses.

TCC Eye Clinic is unable to perform or provide referrals for elective eye procedures such as LASIK and PRK, because these procedures are not considered medically necessary. If you have questions about how and where these procedures are performed please ask your provider during your exam.

Because of COVID-19 considerations and restrictions, making an appointment has gotten more complicated.

Please keep these changes in mind when booking an appointment:

- **Routine eye exams and contact lens renewals are scheduled a week in advance.** This means if a customer calls to schedule an appointment on Monday Sept 13th they will be making an appointment for the week of September 20th-24th.
- The schedule for the following week **opens at 8:30 am on Mondays.** (If there is a holiday and the Eye Clinic is closed on Mondays, appointment scheduling will be moved to the first open day of the work week).
- **If you are coming in from a village for other medical appointments** and need to coordinate travel earlier, please let our team know, and we can assist with the coordination of your care.
- **New contact lens fits are scheduled at 3:30 pm** to make sure that we have adequate staffing and time to assist new contact lens wearers when they learn about proper contact lens care and use.
- **For exams related to diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration and other such medical eye issues,** please let our team know that you need this type of exam when you book your appointment. Our staff will reserve the equipment needed in advance for your appointment.
- We are happy to **repair or adjust your new or old glasses by appointment only.** These services are available by appointment to make sure we have adequate staffing to assist you in a timely fashion.

To contact the CAIHC Eye Clinic for an appointment or to ask questions you may have about the services we provide, please call (907) 451-6682 ex. 3220, or email us at: eye_clinic@tananachiefs.org

What if I have an eye emergency?

There are same day appointments available during normal office hours for red eyes, eye injuries and other eye emergencies. Please call us to get scheduled. For eye emergencies after hours, call the After Hours Triage Nurse at 1-800-478-6682 or 451- 6682.

Tribal Offices: *Current Open Positions*

HUGHES

Vacancies open as of 08/27/2021:

- Building Maintenance Person
- Water Plant Operator Alternate
- Bulk Fuel Sales Clerk (Gas/Oil)
- Janitor
- Biomass Alternative Operator

Contact the City of Hughes to apply: 907-889-2206 or PO BOX 45010 Hughes, AK 99745

ALATNA

Vacancies open as of 07/19/2021:

- Transportation Coordinator
- Elder Nutrition Program Cook
- Tribal Family Court Clerk

Contact the Alatna Tribal Council to apply: 907-968-2305

KOYUKUK

Vacancies open as of 09/03/2021:

- Tribal Police Officer
- Transportation Planner
- Tribal Resilience Coordinator
- Courthouse Maintenance
- Alcohol Abuse/Re-entry Prevention Coordinator
- Tribal Victim Specialist
- Healthy Homes Project Manager

Contact the Koyukuk Tribal Council to apply: 907-927-2253

Navigating through Healing, *You're Not Alone*

A new Tanana Chiefs Conference program is giving tribal members who have survived injustice renewed hope.

"Our Tribal members and their families who survived a crime or violence often feel that they are alone," said Brittany Madros, Tribal Government and Justice Division director. "TCC's Tribal Protective Service Program helps our people get back on their feet and help them stand tall with renewed resiliency, self-esteem and confidence."

Last year, TCC created the Tribal Protective Service Program to provide support for Tribal members impacted by crime and provide them with advocacy and safety. Since January, the program has served 38 people, who would not have had access to support and advocacy without the Tribal Protective Service Program.

The program serves Tribal members from the TCC region who have survived different types of crimes like arson, sexual assault, robbery, hate crimes, physical abuse and domestic violence. Sometimes the Tribal Protective Service Program serves families who have a loved one missing under suspicious circumstances or murdered.

In October 2020, the Department of Justice (DOJ) awarded \$77 million

in funding to Tribal organizations in Alaska. The DOJ is committed to ensuring that their Tribal partners, like TCC, have the resources needed to provide help and justice for crime victims. Tribal Protective Service Program is funded by a \$3.8 million grant from the federal agency.

When program manager, Constance Reimer-Ely, works with clients, her top priority is to keep them safe. That can mean anything from helping Tribal members get emergency shelter at hotels in

hub communities or helping them think through the best way for them to escape violent situations. No matter what clients need, the Trauma Navigators are always there to listen.

"When I listen to our clients' stories, I listen with my heart and mind," said Constance. "We, the Trauma navigators or I, take notes as they are speaking so that they don't need to relive the trauma they experienced by retelling their stories. At the end of their story, we let them know that TCC is here to help them. It's a good feeling when Tribal members tell us how much they appreciate our help."

Clients almost always need help with transportation whether it's to get to a counseling appointment or out of

a difficult home situation. That help can be cab vouchers, bus tokens or sometimes gas for their vehicle. The program has also helped a family with bicycles because they lived far away from a bus stop.

Sometimes, tribal members come to the program after they have left the situation. The Tribal Protective Service Program helps clients with their basic needs like hygiene products, food, and government documents. Sometimes, clients need to leave a situation in a hurry and can't go back home to get their birth certificate or drivers licenses. The program assists with payments to take care of the fees for reacquiring these documents.

TPSP is a program designed to provide safety, mobile advocacy, and supportive services for victims of crime to the TCC Region. TPSP also provides training and technical support to Tribes and Rural Victim Advocates in the TCC Region.

Just remember there is no "correct" way to react to becoming a crime victim or witness, nor is there a timeline for restoring a sense of "normalcy" to life. Each individual will react in their own way and heal in their own time. Help for working through the aftermath of the crime is available here at TCC, and we are standing by ready to listen and navigate those that have been victimized through their healing process when they're are ready. Office: 1-800-478-6822 / 907-452-8251 ext. 3599 / 3590; Mobile Advocate Cell: 907-328-9768.



TCC Now Offering Child Care Assistance Coverage for *Subsistence Activities!*

Are you engaged in subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, berry picking, gardening, food preservation or wood cutting? Did you know that if you have children under the age of 13 **we can pay a family relative to provide child care** for them while you are doing these activities? That's right, if a family relative is willing to be an approved child care provider we can pay! Usually a grandparent or a close relative are already providing care your children so why not have them get paid. If you would like further information please contact us at 907-452-8251 ext. 3365 or email us at childcare@tananachiefs.org.





Addressing Your Concerns at *Physical Therapy*

The Physical Therapy & Integrative Care department would like to thank everyone who participated in the customer survey and all of the helpful feedback we have received. Many of the customer concerns and suggestions align with our current improvement projects.

For instance, Physical Therapy and Integrative Care is going through a strategic planning process to determine how we can accommodate more providers and services while taking into account our restrictions such as; space, staffing, and financial constraints.

Another issue we are addressing is the parking at Chief Peter John Tribal Building. Physical Therapy and Integrative Care is currently working with TCC Facilities and Security to establish patient specific parking spots near the entrance to the building, and we hope to resolve this issue within a few weeks.

Our department has been performing virtual visits before COVID-19 and we've ramped up this service during the pandemic. This method of care is utilized to its maximum potential. We also acknowledge certain assessments and treatments are best done in person and will work with those who need this service.

To accommodate more patients in the same space while maintaining a safe distance, we have expanded our hours and are now open at 7a.m..

Furthermore, we are working on strategies to lengthen our hours into the early evening, such as changing our provider's schedules to a four day - 10 hour work week, but this is in the planning stages at this time due to staffing constraints. We have also converted the downstairs clinic/fitness center space for patient use.

Physical Therapy and Integrative Care currently have two personal trainers working downstairs in the clinic/fitness center at the Chief Peter John Tribal Building.

Because funding comes from almost entirely from grants for the Diabetes prevention program, one trainer works primarily with those patients that have a diagnosis of Diabetes, Pre-Diabetes or Obesity.

The other personal trainer is a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) who provides Elder Exercise classes two times a week. Because of the pandemic, this has been, and remains a virtual class. Any elder who is interested in participating can contact us and we will help get them set up for this. The CMA also has responsibilities that are spread throughout the department which include acupuncture, and chiropractic services.

In addition, we are also able to have a limited number of Physical Therapy "graduates" work with a personal trainer. Graduates of Physical Therapy have completed their prescribed plan their provider created at the beginning

of treatment and have shown dedication to their health as well as shown respect to other patients by keeping their appointments. These "graduate" visits are all by referral from their medical provider.

One way to decrease wait time for Physical Therapy, Chiropractic and Acupuncture services, is for more people to keep their appointments. Unfortunately, a lot of appointments are scheduled with our department, but the appointments are not kept. The appointment slot then goes unused unless we can find someone at the last minute to come in and most of the time it's hard to find someone at the last minute. When patients don't keep or cancel their appointment, it wastes an appointment slot, and it wastes CAIHC's limited funding. It is very helpful if patients can let us know within 24 hours if they cannot make their appointment, because this gives us time to schedule someone who is waiting for an appointment.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for Physical Therapy, please talk to your medical provider for an in-house referral. If you have questions about services please call (907)452-8251 ex. 3139.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for Chiropractic or Acupuncture services, please talk to your medical provider for an in-house referral. If you have questions about our services please call (907)452-8251 ex. 3090.

To Contact Physical Therapy:
TCC • Health Services • Physical Therapy
(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 451-6682 Ext. 3139

Understanding Purchased Referred Care Funding and The Referral Process

By Purchase Referred Care Team

What is Purchased Referred Care (PRC)?

PRC is the program that pays for Specialized Medical Services when services are not available within Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) or the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) in Anchorage.

How is PRC funded?

Tanana Chiefs Conference Health Services (TCC) receives funds each year from the Indian Health Services through Congressional Appropriations. These funds are limited and unfortunately not all services can be funded through PRC.

Is PRC an Insurance Benefit?

No, PRC is not considered an insurance program. PRC funding must be prior approved by PRC before receiving any medical care outside of CAIHC, unless it's a medical emergency. PRC is not an entitlement or guarantee of payment, but a payer of last resort.

Eligibility Requirements for PRC funding?

American Indians and Alaska Natives that reside in the TCC Region with the intent to permanently reside are eligible for PRC funding. If you are not a resident of the TCC region you will need to contact the area that you live in for funding assistance.

How do I get a Referral for PRC coverage?

Your TCC -Primary Care Physician will need to send a referral request to the PRC office for review to verify that you qualify for PRC funds. A Physician referral is not a guarantee or authorization of payment, but only a referral for more specialized medical care.

If you have a medical emergency after clinic hours, you

will need to call the triage nurse line at 451-6682 or 1 800-478-6682 for instructions as to where to seek medical care.

What is the PRC screening process?

There are four requirements that PRC must follow in order to fund medical care:

1. To be eligible for PRC funding you must provide proof that you are a member or a descendent of a member from a federally recognized tribe.
2. All TCC beneficiaries must be screened for alternate resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, private health insurance and/or motor vehicle coverage. Using another paying source allows Health Services to maintain PRC funds so we can pay for other beneficiaries that do not qualify for resources. PRC is the payer of last resort per federal regulations.
3. Must be a permanent resident in the TCC sub-region.
4. Medical care must meet the medical priority level for medically necessary services to prevent and/or improve the condition of the patient and to prevent death or serious physical impairment.

Why do I need a Referral Order from PRC?

Having a referral order from PRC shows that your medical services are being funded by PRC. Without a referral order from PRC you will be responsible for any medical costs outside of Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center.

What do I do when I receive a medical bill?

Call PRC at 451-6682 ext. 3613 and you will be transferred to the PRC staff member that handles your account.



In Memory of Joseph Notti

TCC saddened to hear about the passing of one of our former Village Public Safety Officers Joe Notti.

VPSO Notti worked as a VPSO for nine years in the villages of Tyonek (twice), Old Harbor, Fairbanks and Ruby. Prior to working as a VPSO, Joe Notti worked as a police officer for the City of Kotzebue in the North West Arctic Borough. He left the TCC VPSO program in 2020 to pursue other opportunities and to be closer to his family. The

Statewide VPSO family is saddened to hear of VPSO Notti's passing. Trooper Laura Reid attended the academy with VPSO Notti and upon her hearing of his passing she immediately contacted the TCC VPSO Coordinator, Darrell Hildebrand, to express her disbelief and condolences to the family. VPSO Joseph "Joe" Notti will be greatly missed by all who he came into contact with. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

Bringing Books To Interior Communities

The North Star Imagination Library and Tanana Chiefs Conference have partnered to expand Dolly Parton's book gifting program to all TCC communities previously unserved by an Imagination Library affiliate. Effective immediately, children may register to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail until their fifth birthday. These books are selected by a committee of education experts to inspire a lifelong love of reading. Access to books in the home is a predictor for success in school and helps foster a loving bond between children and caregivers.

"We are thrilled to be able to include the TCC communities in our Imagina-



tion Library and ensure that hundreds more children have access to these high-quality books and the thrill of receiving a monthly gift to call their own," Emily Vockeroth, North Star Imagination Library Board President.

Registration for children under five can be completed at www.northstarimaginationlibrary.org

or by contacting a TCC Head Start. For more information, email books@northstarimaginationlibrary.org or call 907-374-7030.

About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Par-

ton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation has gifted well over 150 million free books in Australia, Canada, The Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and the United States. The Imagination Library mails more than 1.8 million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to registered children from birth to age five. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading, inspiring them to dream. The impact of the program has been widely researched and results suggest positive increases in key early childhood literacy metrics. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, please visit imaginationlibrary.com.

THEDA JOE TETLIN

Theda Joe was born in Tetlin. She worked as a community health aide and delivered babies.

Theda's first memory is going to her Grandma's home to learn about her culture. She never quit until she learned what her Grandma wanted to teach her.

Theda laughs as she remembers how her Grandma taught her how to cut fish. "I start but I don't do very good because I am too young. I keep trying until I learned. I got my Grandma's hands, how to cut fish Grandma style."

Theda shares how she worked through the grief of losing her son by writing about her feelings and burning the paper. She says the Lord helped her through her sadness and depression.

"My parents told me no matter what they do to you or what happens, let them go. Forgive people or God won't forgive you. It's hard to do, but it's what I did."

LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

See Theda's full legacy video at:
www.tananachiefs.org/legacy-of-our-elders/

TCC's Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Elders throughout the TCC region. These videos are available on our website.

THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3424

Fax: (907) 459-3884

communications_dept@tananachiefs.org

www.tananachiefs.org

Letters to the Editor, other written contributions and photo submissions are welcome. However, space is limited and program-oriented news has priority. We reserve the right to edit or reject material. Letters and opinions are not necessarily the opinions of Tanana Chiefs Conference. Material submitted anonymously will not be printed.



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Find Your Purpose

Join Our Team:

www.tananachiefs.org/careers

Village Vacancies

- **Alatna:** Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor
- **Allakaket:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Community Health Representative, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Anaktuvuk Pass:** Behavioral Health Aide
- **Anvik:** Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Arctic Village:** Home Care Provider, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Chalkyitsik:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Circle:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- **Dot Lake:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Eagle:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Home Care Provider
- **Evansville:** Elder Nutrition Cook, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Fort Yukon:** Preschool Assistant Teacher, Preschool Lead Teacher, Home Care Provider
- **Galena:** ENHC Operations Officer, Infant/Toddler Teacher, Nurse
- **Grayling:** Family Visitor, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Healy Lake:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist x2, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Holy Cross:** Family Visitor, Home Care Provider, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Hughes:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant, Family Visitor
- **Kaltag:** Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- **Koyukuk:** Village Bookkeeper
- **McGrath:** Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Minto:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Nenana:** Infant/Toddler Teacher, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- **Northway:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Nulato:** Preschool Assistant Teacher, Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Old Minto:** Traditional Counselor,

Practitioner - Primary Care, Physician Assistant - Primary Care, Prevention Coordinator, RN, Service Desk Technician

Primary Counselor

- **Rampart:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Ruby:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Shageluk:** Family Visitor, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
- **Stevens Village:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Tanacross:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Tetlin:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Family Visitor, Preschool Lead Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Tok:** Alternate Resource Coordinator, Assistant Crew Boss, Certified Medical Assistant, Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant, Coordinator/Instructor Mid Level Practitioner, On Call Janitor, Physician Assistant - UTHC, Urgent Care RN Advanced, Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
- **Venetie:** Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer

Region- Wide Vacancies

- Behavioral Health Crisis Clinician
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner-Itinerant

Don't Experiment With Meth. Not Even Once.

A true friend will never offer you meth.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
The Division of Wellness & Prevention
Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative
907-452-8251 ext.3089 • (800) 478-6822

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE 2022 TCC CALENDAR!



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS OCTOBER 15th, 2021

Go to: www.tananachiefs.org/2022-tcc-calendar-submissions/
Fill out the form, upload pictures, and give a caption and you're done!

LIMITED COVID TESTING

The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center currently has limited COVID-19 testing availability. Patients requesting to be tested can call the clinic at 907-451-6682. Tests are scheduled on a day-to-day basis and are not scheduled days in advance. Patients also have the option of getting tested at the Capstone Clinic in Fairbanks at 907-864-4642



JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2021