



## IHS Facilities Rally to Meet New NHSN Reporting Requirements

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities to report healthcare-associated infection data into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) on a quarterly basis. Recently, IHS Headquarters increased the frequency of NHSN reporting to monthly and requested that critical access hospitals (CAHs) also report. Despite many obstacles, including NHSN access barriers and personal identity verification (PIV) card process delays, ***IHS facilities have gone from 50 percent of them reporting into NHSN to nearly 100 percent.***

### ALL HANDS ON DECK

Monthly NHSN reporting poses its fair share of barriers. Best practice recommendations include each facility has at least two NHSN users to create backups and mitigate any unforeseen issues. IHS facilities are diligently working to meet this recommendation.

Getting and maintaining facility-level access to NHSN can be a lengthy process, but putting a facility plan in place helps expedite the necessary steps and can ease the stress and burden of process delays. This is something IHS facilities are also working towards.

### LENDING A HELPING HAND

IHS leadership works closely with the Partnership to Advance Tribal Health (PATH) team to support partnering facilities with reporting into NHSN. Working directly with primary contacts at each facility, the PATH team provides technical assistance and education to help staff gain access to NHSN and accurately reporting on time. Along with PATH team members, Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator Matthew Ellis and several others from IHS Headquarters were key players in getting facilities proper access and training. Of course, facility staff also hugely stepped up to meet the new monthly requirement.

“Each facility was very responsive, receptive and appreciative,” says Nancy McDonald, PATH quality improvement advisor, “and IHS Headquarters has appreciated the hard work and the awesome progress achieved at all the facilities.”

The PATH team continues to work with IHS Headquarters to help identify routine and automated reports, so facilities can correctly pull information needed for NHSN reporting.

### WHO

PATH team members, with support from IHS Headquarters, provide technical assistance to IHS facilities to assist with reporting data into NHSN.

### WHAT

IHS facilities improved NHSN reporting, going from 50% compliance to 96% compliance by the last monthly deadline.

### WHEN

IHS Headquarters now requires monthly NHSN reporting for all IHS facilities, including CAHs.

### WHERE

All PATH-supported IHS facilities in seven states stepped up to report into NHSN.

### WHY

NHSN allows facilities to see their data in real-time to assess quality improvement progress and identify where additional efforts are needed.

**Need NHSN assistance?**

Contact us at [PATH@comagine.org](mailto:PATH@comagine.org).