URGENT REQUEST: RESPOND TO THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS!

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced it will wrap up the survey Sept. 30, a month sooner than previously expected, raising fears of a national undercount. Online and phone self-response options will close on that date. Census workers who are door-knocking to collect responses must also halt their efforts then.

This is a big problem in Alaska. Lack of road systems means census materials must be hand-delivered in many rural areas. That work began on March 13, but it was discontinued only three days later due to COVID-19 and did not recommence until May. That puts Alaska significantly behind the curve.

Stand Up and Be Counted, Alaska!

Census data informs how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed over the next 10 years. Considering Alaska’s economy even before the pandemic – and, given the additional impacts of the pandemic on governments, businesses, organizations, communities and individuals – it is critical for Alaskans to participate in the census. Otherwise, undercounts mean AN/AI individuals and families don’t receive an equal share of resources, services or political power.

Unfortunately, Alaska is lagging behind the census national response rate, at just 52% versus 64% for the rest of the country. Anchorage has a self-response rate of 65%, while the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Kenai Peninsula are at just 37% and 42%, respectively.

People of color — including and especially Alaska Native and American Indian (ANAI) people — go uncounted in the U.S. Census in far greater numbers than others. Being undercounted means ANAI individuals and families don’t receive an equal share of resources, services or political power.

Undercounts of ANAI peoples mean inadequate funding for the Indian Health Service. In the Cook Inlet region, undercounts translate to less Indian Block Grant funding made available to Cook Inlet Housing Authority for housing and community-development programs; less funding for the many services provided by Cook Inlet Tribal Council; and inadequate funding for health coverage and care available through Southcentral Foundation.

Respond Today: 10 questions, 10 minutes

The important thing to remember is that whether you live in an urban or rural area, you do not need to wait for the census to come to you! All individuals may respond to the census online at my2020census.gov or by calling (844) 330-2020. The census consists of 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. The deadline to respond is Wednesday, Sept. 30.

If you are ANAI, how you answer questions 5 and 9 will directly impact how much federal funding goes to tribal programs. The Alaska Federation of Natives has prepared a flyer detailing how best to answer those questions. The flyer may be viewed at nativefederation.org/2020census.

Already responded? Please check in with your friends and family members to make sure they do the same.

For more information, visit 2020census.gov. Alaskans may visit alaskacounts.org for a wealth of census information, including Alaska Native language resources, answers to frequently asked questions, social media toolkits and more.

CARES ACT FUNDING UPDATE

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (Cares) Act was passed by Congress on March 27, 2020. Soon after a lawsuit was filed challenging the right of Alaska Native corporations, like CIRI, to receive CARES Act funds. In June 2020, a federal judge ruled that Alaska Native regional and village corporations are eligible to receive CARES Act funds. This decision was subsequently appealed, and the litigation has not yet been settled. As of today, CIRI and other Alaska Native regional and village corporations have not received CARES Act funds.

The amount of funding that CIRI might receive under the CARES Act is not known at this time. What is known is that the CARES Act requires that payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund only be used to cover expenses that:

- Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
- Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and
- Were incurred during the period March 1 through Dec. 30, 2020.

From the guidance received from the U.S. Treasury, it appears that dividends/distributions to all shareholders are not allowed.

As previously reported, to the extent any CARES Act funding is received, CIRI will ensure the funds are utilized as prescribed under the Act, including working with Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Southcentral Foundation, where it makes sense to do so.
Parents everywhere are grappling with the question of whether it’s safe to send their children back to school.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says that children learn best when physically present in the classroom. In addition to academics, children expand their social and emotional skills at school, have access to healthy meals and exercise, and receive mental-health support and other services that cannot be easily replicated online. The pandemic is especially hard on families who rely on school lunches, have children who require extra support, or lack access to the internet or health care.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has likewise stated the importance of reopening schools, and that aside from a child’s home, no other setting has more influence on a child’s health and well-being than his/her school.

Unfortunately, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children’s Hospital Association recently reported 179,990 new child cases of COVID-19 between July 9 and Aug. 6, an increase of 90% over a four-week period.

Amid this spike, many schools will not return to full-time, in-person instruction. In the U.S., districts are increasingly splitting into three groups: those teaching online only; those that allow families to choose between in-person and at-home instruction, and those offering a hybrid approach, with students spending some days in classrooms and some days learning remotely.

In the Cook Inlet region:

• The Anchorage School District began the year with online-only classes.
• For students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, central peninsula schools adopted a remote-learning model while schools in Homer opted for in-person instruction.
• In the Matanuska-Susitna School Borough School District, elementary schools host classes five days a week and secondary-school students attend four days a week while their Friday classes are held virtually. Masks are required for students in grades 3-12.

While returning to school is important for the healthy development and well-being of children, re-opening must be done in a way that is safe for all students, educators and staff, and their families. Science, not politics, should drive decision-making on safely reopening schools.

While researchers race to develop a safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, please remember that school vaccination rules are still in effect for the 2020-2021 school year, and all students should be up-to-date, in the process of receiving vaccines or have a valid exemption. For more information, see page 06.

Every parent is struggling to do what’s right for his or her family, and when it comes to sending our children back to school, there are no clear-cut answers. Living in the era of a pandemic is new to all of us, and we are now tasked not only with balancing parenting with work or other obligations, but also assuming new responsibility for our children’s education. Local and state leaders are likewise forced to make difficult choices: open schools and potentially risk the health of students, educators and their families, or keep schools shuttered and possibly hinder the development of the community’s children.

Whatever your situation – in-person classes, virtual/at-home or a hybrid – the CDC has developed checklists intended to help parents, guardians and caregivers plan and prepare for the upcoming school year. The current guidelines can be found at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html.

Wishing all our readers and their families a safe and healthy fall.

Warm regards,

Sophie Minich

A MESSAGE FROM CIRI DIRECTOR
Michelle Lindersmith

My name is Michelle Lindersmith. I am Inupiaq, with Alaska Native ancestry rooted in Nome. My two brothers and I were gifted CIRI shares from my father, Kenneth Boire, who inherited shares from his mother, Ida Boire, an original enrollee. It has been my privilege to serve on the CIRI Board of Directors since 2018.

I was fortunate that, when I was growing up, my father was involved in work with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, so even though I was raised outside of Alaska, I grew up with an understanding of and appreciation for my Alaska Native heritage. My grandmother also helped instill the feeling of cultural pride I carry with me today – respect for the land and Our People, the importance of looking out for one another.

In the past (2008-2012), I had the opportunity to join CIRI’s Shareholder Participation Committee (SPC), where I served as secretary of the lower 48 and Hawaii committee. In this role, I was able to meet and work with members of CIRI’s Board of Directors and leadership team, as well as my fellow SPC members. It became very apparent to me that we are a family of Alaska Native people who love and are proud of our culture. We have leaders in CIRI who truly care about their fellow shareholders and the future of the company, and who work hard to meet the needs of the members.

Professionally, I have a background in information technology and have worked in the cyber security arena since 2010. I currently serve as director of AWS Security Response at Amazon. My nearly 20 years of management experience at Fortune 100 companies has given me the opportunity to develop a broad skill set that also encompasses business planning and finance. That professional background, coupled with my experience on the SPC, motivated me to apply for a position on the CIRI Board of Directors.

If you are at all interested in Board service, I encourage you to apply! In addition to a strong understanding of business and basic financial knowledge, we are looking for candidates who are demonstrated leaders in their area of expertise, whether in large corporations or small businesses. We are looking for quality leaders who operate with ethics and integrity. And most importantly, we are looking for candidates who are passionate about Our People and who desire to create a legacy for CIRI that leaves a high-functioning corporation that will benefit generations to come.

If you have questions about serving on the CIRI Board or would just like to reach out and introduce yourself, I invite you to email board@ciri.com.
CIRI INVESTS IN WOOD BIOMASS FUEL ENTERPRISE

One of CIRI’s five corporate values is respect, with a focus on the importance of the history and heritage of CIRI – its land, resources, and people – and promoting responsible stewardship of CIRI’s resources. Respect is a directive the company takes seriously. It guides the actions of our Board and employees and forms a basis for the company’s business decisions.

Throughout the world, countries are recognizing the positive environmental impact wood biomass fuel (wood pellets) can have in replacing coal and providing a renewable source of energy. According to the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, the major advantage of wood over fossil fuel is that wood is a renewable resource, offering a sustainable, dependable supply. Another advantage is that the amount of carbon dioxide emitted during the burning process is typically 90% less than when burning fossil fuel. Wood biomass fuel often emits minimal amounts of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter; its ash is non-flowing and, unlike coal ash, does not pose an acid rain pollution threat and has controllable particulate emissions. It’s also significantly less expensive than competing fossil fuels.

Given that, it’s no surprise that the per-year global demand for wood pellets has quadrupled since 2010, from 4.9 million metric tons in 2010 to 21.9 million metric tons in 2019. By 2024, global demand is expected to be between 32 million and 54 million metric tons per year. Propelling the increased demand are several renewable energy policies, most notably in Asia and Europe.

Earlier this year, CIRI became an investor in the Enviva Holdings wood biomass fuel enterprise. CIRI’s capital will be deployed through a limited partnership interest in a private equity fund comprised of a single investment in Enviva, resulting in a minority ownership in the fund.

Enviva is well positioned to capitalize on the fast-growing global market for renewable wood pellet utility fuel. As the world’s largest producer of wood pellets, it owns and operates seven plants strategically located in the southeastern U.S. that produce over 2.5 million metric tons of wood pellets annually.

Enviva strives to not only meet but exceed environmental impact standards. The company does not contribute to deforestation or forest decline and is certified to meet the standards of major forest sustainability organizations, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council and Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. Compliance with these groups’ requirements is independently audited and verified by third parties, providing a road map for third-party certification, the most common being the Forest Stewardship Council, which provides certification to companies that work to ensure the sustainability of their forest operations.

Through its proprietary Track & Trace system, Enviva tracks every ton of wood it buys back to its origin in the forest or at a sawmill. Any supplier delivering wood to one of its plants must first share the details about the forests and characteristics of the tract from which the wood is sourced with Enviva’s forestry staff so the company can verify the fiber meets its strict sustainability criteria.

Enviva boasts the largest contracted order backlog in the industry across North America. Combined with its operations and manufacturing expertise, established customer relationships and multi-national market, it’s well positioned to take advantage of the growing worldwide demand for sustainably sourced wood pellet fuel.

“The Enviva opportunity is well aligned with CIRI’s strategy to diversify the company’s revenue stream and an extremely strong new-deal pipeline. Combined so the company can verify the fiber meets its strict sustainability criteria, we are excited to participate in this growing global industry,” said Suzanne Settle, vice president, Corporate Development.

For more information, visit envivabiomass.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 7, 2020
Labor Day: CIRI offices closed

SEPT. 30, 2020
Quarterly participation prize drawing deadlines: confirmed descendant, direct deposit, eNewsletter, Qenek, stock will (details at ciri.com)

OCT. 12, 2020
Indigenous Peoples’ Day Annual AFN Convention, to be held virtually. Visit naivefoundation.org for information

OCT. 15-16, 2020
2020 CIRI FRIENDSHIP POTLATCHES CANCELLED

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, CIRI’s 2020 Friendship Potlatches, which are typically held each year in Anchorage and Kenai, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest, have been cancelled. This is in line with resuming in-person events when it is safe to do so.

Eric Watson

Even during a global pandemic, CIRI shareholder Eric Watson (Ahtna/Savimini) is committed to helping the eight federally recognized tribes within the Cook Inlet region collaborate and strengthen their relationships with each other and with Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC).

A CIRI-affiliated nonprofit, CITC provides support services for Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) peoples through education, employment and training, family preservation, addiction recovery and workforce development. Eric has worked at CITC since 2009 and currently serves as the organization’s village liaison and special projects manager.

“Thanks to technology, CITC has been able to deliver the same support to our tribes despite the coronavirus,” Eric shared. “It doesn’t replace the face-to-face interaction we’re used to, of course, but we’re still working with participants, making connections, building relationships – all those things that are so important.”

Eric is connected to CIRI through his father, original enrollee John Patrick Watson, whose family hails from Bethel, Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska. Growing up, Eric said he didn’t have a strong connection with his Alaska Native heritage, but over the years he has come to understand the importance of the history and heritage of Anchorage and his mother is a full-blooded Norwegian from Minnesota.

“When I was going through the Anchorage public school system, I wasn’t very motivated to learn who I was,” Eric confessed. “But as an adult, I’m curious and I want to know more about my past.”

“I really started when I began working for CITC,” he continued. “A large part of that was working with other Alaska Native people and seeing the way cultural values are part of CITC’s organizational values. It was also going out to rural communities and learning about culture. Attending fish camps and culture camps, learning everyone’s story – it helped motivate me to learn more about my own story.”

As CITC’s village liaison, Eric’s focus is on three pillars: 1) communication, 2) professional development and 3) capacity-building efforts.

A degree in psychology and a background in counseling “has helped me in my role at CITC,” Eric said. “It’s important you can influence relationship-building around the region; I can have a really strong impact in programs. I’ve been empowered by leadership many times and have found a strong impact in professional development and education. I feel supported here in a way I’ve never been supported in any other organization.”

Support for tribes is paramount to preserving Alaska Native culture, history and language. Today, many tribes in Alaska and across the U.S. are re-examining the traditions and cultures that were stripped away due to colonization. Each tribe in the Cook Inlet region “has a wonderful sense of identity,” Eric enthused. “There’s a strong desire by the tribes to share knowledge with their youth and have that transcendence of knowledge.”

The issue, he said, is that many tribes possess limited resources, particularly when measured against the challenges and critical issues they address. “We have some of the most talented individuals working at our tribes, but they’re wearing multiple hats – creating budgets, applying for grants, maintaining organizations. Add to that the time to find the time to create curriculum or access and research the resources that are out there, it can be a challenge. So CITC has been very fortunate to...
SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 03

VOTE-BY-MAIL REMINDER

REGISTRATION AND VOTE-BY-MAIL REMINDER

VOTE BY MAIL

Alaskans have through Oct. 3 to register to vote or update any outdated voter registration information for this year’s general election, which will take place Tuesday, Nov. 3. To register or update your voter information, visit voterregistration.alaska.gov. Those living outside Alaska can determine the voter registration deadline in their state by visiting vote.gov/voter-registration-deadlines.

Alaskans may also easily apply online for absentee mail-in ballots for the general election. Applications for absentee ballots must be received no later than 10 days before Election Day. The State plans to send paper absentee ballot applications to all registered voters 65 years of age and older. To apply online for an absentee ballot, visit absenteeballotapplication.alaska.gov.

GET OUT THE NATIVE VOTE BECOMES CITC AFFILIATE

New affiliation will empower Alaska Native people to register to vote, be civically engaged and pursue leadership roles

by CITC’s Jamey Bradbury

This year, all 40 seats in the Alaska State House of Representatives and 10 seats in the Alaska Senate are up for election. There has arguably never been a more important time for Alaska Native voters to make their voices heard. And Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) is encouraging Alaska Native people to do just that, through a new partnership with Get Out the Native Vote (GOTNV).

“This is an important time for Alaska Native people to expand civic engagement and have real impact through voting,” said CITC President and CEO Gloria O’Neill. “It’s an exciting opportunity to foster leadership and to create lasting change within the systems that affect people’s lives every day.”

This June, CITC acquired GOTNV as an affiliate nonprofit in an effort to bolster GOTNV’s sustainability and to expand impact for both organizations.

“With the work we do at CITC and the reach we have in our community, our affiliation with GOTNV is a natural fit,” said CITC Chief Administrative Officer Tabetha Tolot. Through its partnership with GOTNV, CITC aims to increase voter registration efforts; educate Alaska Native people about civic engagement opportunities; and encourage Alaska Native peoples’ participation in local, state and federal government.

Creating the Future

As an affiliate of CITC, GOTNV will be able to tap into CITC’s existing relationship with Alaska Native people in the Cook Inlet region and build upon previous successful statewide efforts.

“We’re able to make connections with people through the programs we have, as well as with the statewide stakeholders already engaged with and supporting GOTNV,” said Nikki Graham, director of Alaska’s People at CITC. “That’s a valuable voting base that can create real change in our state when their voices are united.”

In a year when COVID-19 threatens to disrupt voting, CITC is already considering an easily accessed polling place for this election cycle. GOTNV will allow the organization to support Alaska Native voting and civic participation in other ways, too.

GOTNV’s goals — including raising civic participation among Alaska Native people and continuing voter registration efforts — align with CITC’s “ThriveAbility” plan, which envisions a world in which Alaska Native people are self-determined and create their own future. There is no greater tool, perhaps, in helping create the future than by being civically active.

A Fight for Equality

While there are other organizations supporting outreach under the GOTNV identity, this iteration of GOTNV is a nonpartisan campaign that was initiated by the ANCSA Regional Association in 1999. Among its several voting-related goals, the organization fought to ensure that every qualified voter across the state would have the opportunity to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Access to easy voting, the right to make one’s voice heard. These seem like struggles from an earlier era, challenges chronicled in history books. But as recently as 2019, battles were fought to ensure that all Alaskans, including Alaska Native people living in rural areas, have easy access to polling places and to materials in their Native languages.

“Alaska has a long history of problems ensuring the rights of Alaska Natives to vote,” stated a 2019 report on Alaska Native voting rights authored by the Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 1915, Alaska Native people who wished to vote in state and federal elections were required to provide “endorsements” from at least five white citizens before they could do so. As the report relates, “This posed the difficult question of choosing between participating in the democracy or retaining one’s identity and cultural ties.”

In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act was passed, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. The Alaska Legislature swiftly responded by enacting a law that required an English literacy test as a prerequisite to voting — essentially a form of educational discrimination against Alaska Native people, many of whom either had limited English proficiency or exclusively communicated in their Native language.

Voting rights acts passed in 1945 and 1965 helped lessen discrimination against Alaska Native voters, but over the last three decades, Alaska Native people have continued to fight for voting access. Alaska’s geography, language diversity and transportation challenges have all continued to present barriers to voting for Alaska Native people.

Empowering Our People

“For our People, there’s a lot of history of inequality around voting rights,” Graham said. “The message of GOTNV is that voting is not for the privileged — it’s for everyone.”

GOTNV aims not only to ensure that all Alaska Native voters are able and encouraged to vote, but to empower Alaska Native people to express a strong voice on statewide issues, to become more civically engaged — and to run for office themselves.

“Too often, local, state and federal governments make decisions that affect every citizen, often without Native people at the table,” O’Neill said. “It’s important that we exercise our rights, make our voices heard, and continue the fight for equality that so many Alaska Native leaders have pushed forward. We can do this by promoting civic engagement and Alaska Native leadership at all levels of government.”
STRAWBERRY-Rhubarb Crumb Bars

Adapted from the recipe by Jaclyn Bell, cookingclassy.com.

As the author wrote about this recipe, “These bars have an irresistible crumb topping and a gooey fruit filling. It’s the perfect dessert to make when rhubarb is in season.”

START TO FINISH: 1 hour (15 minutes active)

SERVINGS: 12

INGREDIENTS:

Crumb layers
1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

For the filling:
1 1/2 cups diced rhubarb, sliced 1/4-inch thick
1 1/2 cups fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch

DIRECTIONS:

For the crumb layer:
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9” x 9” baking dish and line with parchment paper. (If you don’t care to lift the bars out of the pan before cutting, you can just butter the dish, no parchment needed.)
2. In a mixing bowl whisk together flour, brown sugar and salt. Add in oats, brown sugar and granulated sugar and whisk to blend, using fingertips to break up small clumps of brown sugar.
3. Whisk vanilla into melted butter and pour melted butter over oat mixture. Stir with a spatula until mixture is evenly moistened.
4. Press 2/3 of the mixture into prepared baking dish, set aside remaining 1/3.

For the filling:
5. Add diced strawberries and rhubarb to a medium mixing bowl. Toss with lemon juice.
6. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together sugar and cornstarch. Pour sugar mixture over strawberry mixture and toss to coat.
7. Pour strawberry mixture over bottom crumb layer in baking dish. Evenly sprinkle remaining 1/3 crumb mixture over top.
8. Bake in preheated oven until top is golden brown and crisp and filling is bubbling, about 45 to 50 minutes.
9. Cool on a wire rack until warm then cut into squares. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream if desired.

The Raven’s Circle would like to feature our readers’ favorite recipes! To submit, visit ciri.com/recipe.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9” x 9” baking dish and line with parchment paper. (If you don’t care to lift the bars out of the pan before cutting, you can just butter the dish, no parchment needed.)
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A program of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Immunization Awareness Month is held each August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

Ensuring that routine vaccination is maintained or reinstituted during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks.

Routine vaccination prevents illnesses that lead to unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations and further strain the healthcare system. For the upcoming influenza season, typically October through April, the influenza vaccination, or "flu shot," will be essential in reducing the impact of respiratory illnesses in the population and resulting burdens on the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an Aug. 12 interview, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield advised that rising cases of COVID-19 combined with the annual flu season could create "the worst fall … we’ve ever had" unless 95% to 99% of Americans heed guidance from health officials related to slowing the spread of the coronavirus, including wearing face masks, physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), frequent hand washing and reducing close contact with people who are not a part of your household — precautions that could also reduce transmission of the flu.

Dr. Redfield also urged Americans to add a fifth precaution: getting a flu vaccine. The CDC has purchased millions of doses more than usual this year in the hope that everyone who can get vaccinated will do so. The goal is to minimize the number of people who need to be hospitalized for the flu so that more beds, medical equipment and supplies and staff are available to those who get hospitalized for COVID.

Are vaccines safe?

Vaccines are safe and effective. Data show the current U.S. vaccine supply is the safest in history, and there has never been a single credible study linking vaccines to long-term health conditions.

The widespread fear that vaccines increase risk of autism originated with a 1997 study published by Andrew Wakefield, a British surgeon who later lost his medical license. The article was published in The Lancet, a prestigious medical journal, suggesting that the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was increasing autism in British children. The paper has since been completely discredited due to serious procedural errors, undisclosed financial conflicts of interest and ethical violations, and was retracted by The Lancet.

Several other major, credible studies found no link between any vaccine and the likelihood of developing autism. Additional information is available at cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html.

Who should get immunized?

Adults: Adults 19 years of age and older need to keep their vaccinations up to date because immunity from childhood vaccines can wear off over time. Most adults need a yearly influenza shot and a Td (tetanus, diphtheria) booster every 10 years. Other vaccines may be needed based on age, health conditions, job, lifestyle or travel habits.

Vaccinations should be postponed for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, regardless of whether they have symptoms. However, if they have met the criteria to discontinue their isolation.

Who should get the flu shot?

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the 2020-2021 flu season, the CDC recommends that everyone over 6 months of age receives the influenza vaccination, with rare exceptions.

People who should not get the flu shot include children younger than 6 months of age and individuals with severe, life-threatening allergies to the flu vaccine or any ingredient in the vaccine. This might include gelatin, antibiotics or other ingredients. If you have questions or concerns, talk to your health care provider.

According to the CDC, September and October are good times to get a flu shot. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue into January and even later.

Can the flu shot give you the flu?

No, flu vaccines cannot cause flu illness. Per the CDC, flu shots are currently made in two ways: the vaccine is made either with all flu viruses that have been ‘inactivated’ (killed) and that therefore are not infectious; or b) using only a single gene from a flu virus (as opposed to the full virus) in order to produce an immune response without causing infection.

Are there safety protocols for administering vaccines due to COVID-19?

Yes. The CDC has issued and maintains extensive guidelines to ensure safe administration of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your immunization provider can answer any questions you have on safety protocols and procedures developed in response to the guidelines.

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) offers health and wellness services, including vaccines throughout all stages of life, for Alaska Native and American Indian people living in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska. Part of SCF’s Emergency Management Plan and Pandemic Response includes different levels of operations and staffing based on many factors, including heeding guidance from health authorities and local officials. SCF is closely monitoring state and local health mandates and will make updates to clinic protocol as needed, keeping the safety and health of customer-owners and employees a top priority.

For information or to schedule an appointment, visit southernetworkfoundation.com or call (907) 729-4955 / (800) 478-3343.
THIRD QUARTER DISTRIBUTIONS

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<tbody>
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<td>Third quarter CST Elders Distribution</td>
<td>MONDAY, AUG. 31</td>
<td>THURSDAY, SEPT. 3</td>
<td>FRIDAY, SEPT. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third quarter CST distribution</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9</td>
<td>TUESDAY, SEPT. 22</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30</td>
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</table>

CST Elders Distribution

Third quarter payments from the CIRI Settlement Trust (CST) Elders Distribution Fund will be mailed or directly deposited by 6 p.m. Alaska time on Friday, Sept. 11 to eligible Elders with a valid mailing address on file as of Sept. 10, 2020. CST beneficiaries who are original CIRI shareholders and are 65 years of age or older on the record date of Sept. 10, 2020, are eligible to receive the $450 payment, providing they either own at least one-share of CIRI stock or gifted all of their CIRI stock to family members prior to July 31, 2003. The remaining 2020 CST Elders Distribution Fund payment is scheduled for Dec. 11.

CST Distribution Fund

Third quarter payments from the CST Distribution Fund, in the amount of $946 per share (or $946 per 100 shares), will be mailed or directly deposited by 6 p.m. Alaska time on Wednesday, Sept. 30 to all CST beneficiaries who own CST stock and have a valid mailing address on file with CIRI as of 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22. The remaining 2020 CST Distribution Fund payment is scheduled for Dec. 9.

Annual Check Distribution

CIRI’s Annual Check Program was implemented to address problems associated with owners of fractional or small amounts of CIRI stock not cashing their checks. Under the program, distributions for shareholders owning five or fewer shares of stock who do not sign up for direct deposit or “opt out” of the program are cumulated and paid out annually, with no interest paid. This year, annual checks will mail on Thursday, Sept. 30, and will include both liability shares associated with the 2019 third and fourth quarter and 2020 first and second quarter CST distributions. If applicable, a second check will include both liability shares associated with the 2020 resource revenue distribution. Resource revenue payments are distributed by CIRI, not the CST, and must be paid separately as they issue from different bank accounts. Shareholders who participate in the Annual Check Program should ensure their CIRI mailing addresses are current by 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4.

Direct/Remote Deposit

CIRI urges shareholders who receive their distributions in check form to consider signing up for direct deposit or taking advantage of remote deposit. Both options are fast, easy and environmentally friendly. (Note: When remotely depositing a check, it’s a good idea to make a note on the check so you don’t attempt to cash it again. If a check is cashed twice, you are legally liable to repay the amount of the overpayment.) Shareholders who participate in direct deposit and have a current CIRI mailing address are also eligible to participate in quarterly prize drawings. Direct deposit forms are available from Shareholder Relations and at ciri.com. To cancel direct deposit, please submit a signed, written request prior to 3 p.m. on the specified deadline. If you have a Qwik check, you can cancel your existing direct deposit instruction online via the portal.

Address Checks

Checks are mailed to the address CIRI has on record as of the specified deadline. If your address has changed, be sure to update your address with both CIRI and the U.S. Postal Service. These addresses must match or your CIRI mail may not reach you. When CIRI mail is undeliverable, distributions are held, and the shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. This is true even if a shareholder is signed up for direct deposit. Address changes may be submitted online via the Qwik portal. Alternatively, you may submit a completed CIRI address change form – available at ciri.com – or a signed, written request that includes a current telephone number. You may scan or take a photo of your completed form or request and email it to shareholderrecordinquiries@ciri.com, mail it to CIRI at PO Box 93330, Anchorage, AK 99509, or fax it to (907) 263-5186. If faxed, please call Shareholder Relations as soon as possible to confirm receipt. Forms and information on changing your address or submitting a mail-forwarding request with the U.S. Postal Service are available at usps.com or your local post office.

Tax Reminder

Neither CIRI nor the CST withhold taxes from distributions; however, shareholders or beneficiaries who anticipate owing tax on their distributions have the option of making quarterly estimated tax payments directly to the IRS. To find out more about applicable federal and state tax requirements or making quarterly estimated tax payments, please consult with a tax advisor or contact the IRS directly. As a reminder, distributions made by the CST are expected to be tax-free to beneficiaries in most cases.

Contacting Us

While the Fireweed Business Center remains closed to staff, shareholders and visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shareholder Relations department can nonetheless be reached by phone at (907) 263-5191 / (800) 764-2474 and via email at shareholdersrecords@ciri.com during normal business hours. With no on-site staff, calls will go to voicemail, but if you leave a message, a Shareholder Relations team member will return your call. Please note that because staff are working from home, calls made to shareholders will not display CIRI’s name or phone number.
CIRI is seeking photos from shareholders and descendants for use in the 2021 CIRI calendar. The winning photographers will receive $100 cash cards and their names and photos will appear in the Raven’s Circle newsletter!

Submission deadline: Friday, September 18, 2020

Email photos to: info@ciri.com

For more information, visit ciri.com/shareholders/ciri/calendar-photo-contest