Key Discussion Questions

- Does your state have a process to track this population, particularly those most at risk for adverse effects?
- For children and youth who have tested positive in your state, are you involved in any surveillance of this population?
- Are there particular questions that you have about their potential eligibility for CYSHCN programs, early intervention, or home visiting?
- Are there examples of working with Title V MCH colleagues around tracking this population? Other agencies or programs?

New Mexico Efforts

- Susan Chacon and Susan Merrill from New Mexico discussed the state’s tracking and surveillance process for pregnant persons, mothers, infants, and children who test positive for COVID.
- Native Americans make up half of the state’s COVID-19 rates and mortality rates at 23 times higher than white persons while comprising only 10.9% of the population.
  - Title V funds are being used to address COVID-19 positive health inequities focused on pregnant persons, mothers, infants, and children from accessing services, especially for Native American families and families of color
  - New Mexico began tracking COVID-19 pediatric data, in addition to pregnancy tracking and follow-up
  - Staff is now part of efforts for vaccine distribution
  - Interagency collaborations have been key to success in tracking and vaccine rollout
  - Through a cohort approach, staff have begun testing children who live with COVID-19 positive mothers and/or other COVID-19 positive children; it is important to be aware of, and test, other children in the home with COVID-19 positive pregnant persons and mothers

- Lessons learned:
  - Consider staffing and assigning dedicated staff to testing efforts – COVID numbers may be higher than anticipated
  - Provide information through the lens of language and cultural humility
  - Stay current with information coming out from CDC and vetted websites
  - Train and educate contact tracers and investigators continuously
  - Provide consistent education for pregnant and breastfeeding persons and moms
  - Build upon existing partnerships to support families
  - Support families in accessing care, especially for infants, and assist with telehealth use
  - Identify persons with mental health needs, especially substance use/misuse concerns
Consider special populations such as teen moms and moms with disabilities

**Other Discussion Points on Connecting COVID-19 Positive Families to Care**

- Title V connects with Indian Services to partner and support connection and access to care for COVID positive families
  - If a person is tested through an Indian Health facility, it is managed through Indian Health Services and the tribe
  - For people tested at public health sites, including Native Americans who reside in reservations, people are reached by public health services
- State program has identified the need of identifying and tracking COVID positive families and the team provided more details to their approach for connecting families to services:
  - Families are connected to care; staff person assigned to case and oversee and provide surveillance to ensure families receive care they need
  - Immediate concern for COVID positive pregnant persons – what is the impact to my baby? What is going to happen?
    - Set up a plan for pregnant persons who want check ins with surveillance team; connect to other mental health supports (including peer support)
  - F2F Health Information Center is a fantastic partner
- Mental health needs for CYSHCN – New Mexico team checks in with moms about their needs and mental health challenges for children; connects moms to services
  - Potential opportunities for leveraging HRSA grant to integrate maternal and pediatric mental health
  - Linking uninsured mothers to services - Title X can receive medical and mental health care for women
- Technology connection can be really challenging, especially in rural areas
  - Many people have lost access to their phones
  - Virtual connection fatigue – in addition to issues with internet connection
- Children in foster care/state custody – how many children have tested positive for COVID and how many children have been exposed?
  - Maternal mortality associated with COVID – what happens to that infant?
- Follow up for children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) – no process at this time, maybe a national registry
  - State by state basis – connect with epidemiologist
- Hospitals can apply for emergency Medicaid aid when uninsured women receive care in emergency departments
- States for which the Birth Defects Registry is active can consider adding COVID-19; some states follow infants with NAS through the registry.

**Resources Shared**

- Family-to-Family Health Information Centers
- Vaccine and Pregnancy – AMCHP COVID-19 Townhall
  - All AMCHP COVID-19 Townhall Recordings
- CDC SDoH Survey