



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TRIBAL AND URBAN INDIAN CLINICS UNITE TO PROMOTE LUNG HEALTH DURING NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SAINT PAUL, MN – More than ever, **younger American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people are being diagnosed with lung cancer compared to the Non-Hispanic White population**, and our communities smoke commercial tobacco at higher rates than any other racial/ethnic group in the United States. Join the **American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF)** and other Tribal and Urban Indian Clinics to raise awareness of the Sacred Breath campaign during National Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November.

Our people know **lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Native people**. AICAF remains committed to eliminating the cancer burdens of Indigenous people through improved access to prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivor support.

During this year's Sacred Breath campaign, AICAF is supporting 10 Tribal and Urban Indian Clinics to implement innovative, community-based interventions that engage community members in working towards effective and sustainable lung cancer solutions.

The **Oklahoma City Indian Clinic** will focus on increasing access to life-saving screenings by introducing their new CT scanner and begin lung cancer screening referrals for patients to receive low-dose CT scans. Patients who are referred will receive education on the importance of timely screening and patients who complete their screening will receive an incentive. **American Indian Health Services of Chicago** will highlight the value of culture by hosting a Roc Your Mocs roundance and powwow to raise awareness of lung health in Indian Country. All participating Tribal and Urban Indian Clinics will be disseminating culturally tailored lung health resources throughout the month.

AICAF encourages our relatives to engage in healthy lung practices (like getting screened or participating in traditional activities and movement) and keeping **traditional tobacco sacred** by eliminating the use of commercial tobacco. Talk to your health care provider about your lung health, your family history, and when screening is right for you.

Everyone plays a role in raising lung cancer awareness in their communities because early intervention can be life-saving. Join us to discuss healing through art and culture, breathwork, and traditional tobacco. Together, we can improve lung health for our relatives and future generations!

GET INVOLVED!

Honor.

Cherish relatives impacted by a lung cancer diagnosis. Listen to their stories, learn from their wisdom, and celebrate their sacred lives. Encourage a relative diagnosed with lung cancer or a cancer caregiver to attend AICAF's monthly **virtual cancer support circle**.

-MORE-

Get Screened.

Talk to your health care provider to discuss your screening options or schedule your next lung cancer screening. Talk to your loved ones about the importance of prevention, early detection, and getting screened. Early detection improves the likelihood of favorable health outcomes. Find more information on when to get screened for lung cancer on our [website](#). As always, be sure to schedule an appointment to get screened if you think you have symptoms.

Donate.

A **gift** to AICAF helps us strengthen our programs, build larger campaigns, and provide more resources to families across Indian Country. Giving to AICAF supports our Survivor Support Circle and developing and implementing other survivor resources. It's generous donors like you who play a vital role in making this work happen!

Learn.

Engage with AICAF throughout Sacred Breath Month as we provide culturally-tailored lung cancer resources, toolkits, webinars, and other activities. Stay informed about cancer prevention and share our educational materials with loved ones in your community! Visit our [website](#) to learn more about Indigenous lung cancer burdens and what AICAF is doing to reduce them.

Spread the Word.

Share what you have learned by using the hashtag **#SacredBreath** so we can see how you are raising awareness! Tell your friends, family, and coworkers about our campaign and ask them to share posts from our [social media toolkit](#) to get your network involved.

Participate.

Join AICAF during one of our special virtual gatherings this month as we honor #SacredBreath:

Webinar # 1

Breath of Life: Commencing Sacred Breath Month with a Guided Meditation Session

Date: Friday, November 3, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM Central Time (1 hr)

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LkCbTJXISAC7dNspxtYt3g

Webinar #2

Honoring the Sacred Breath: Culminating Webinar for Lung Cancer Awareness Month with Honor Song

Date: Monday, November 27, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM Central Time (1 hr)

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K8sXZSjfTS2MwWuAao8L5w

Join Our Community.

Like AICAF on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and sign up for our [newsletter](#) to stay up to date on the latest cancer education resources and activities.

About the American Indian Cancer Foundation

AICAF is a national Native-led and Native-governed non-profit organization established to address the tremendous cancer burdens faced by Native people. AICAF strives to be a partner trusted by tribes and organizations, working toward effective and sustainable cancer solutions based on cultural teachings and wisdom.

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