The Navajo Epidemiology Center and its partners received the award from Navajo Area Indian Health Service for excellence in COVID-19 disease surveillance, data analysis and data sharing for the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Epidemiology Center (NEC) plays a critical role in assisting with making data-driven decisions by collecting and analyzing data, and using them to develop appropriate strategies and activities for COVID-19 response on the Navajo Nation. NEC is working with partners (tribal programs, Indian Health Service, tribal health organizations, state health departments, academic institutions, non-profit programs, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), to conduct COVID-19 disease surveillance, perform contact tracing, and manage the data to help with data visualization. NEC also shares its daily COVID-19 situational reports with leaders, partners and the general public to help with making informed decisions. Additional information can be found at: www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19 and www.nec.navajo-nsn.gov.

What is epidemiology?
The study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states in specified populations, and the application of this study to control health problems. Epidemiology is the basic science of public health. It’s a highly quantitative discipline. Epidemiologists study the distribution of frequencies and patterns of health events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It characterizes health events in terms of time, place and person. The Navajo Epidemiology Center collects and analyzes data for the Navajo Nation and shares it with the Nation’s residents, leadership, health officials, hospitals, states, and other partners. The information helps protect the residents of the Navajo Nation.