

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
April 1, 2020**

Chase Gray, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Dr. Mark Peterson, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Angie Gorn, NSHC	Dr. Timothy Lemaire, NSHC
Andrew Norris, Kawerak	Tiffany Martinson, NEC	Reba Lean, NSHC
Joanne Keys, Wales	Traci McGarry, Kawerak	Charlene Sacalamana, Kawerak
Preston Rookok, Native Village of Savoonga	Katie Hannon, CAMP	Jessica Ivanoff, CAMP
Glenn Steckman, City of Nome	Opik, Diomedede	Kirsten Timbers, NSHC VP of CHS
City of Savoonga	Tony Haugen, Native Village of Unalakleet	Howard Weyiouanna, Shishmaref
Rachel Lee, OEH	Cameron Piscocoy, NSHC	Tony, Golovin
Carol O., Teller	Blanche Garnie, Teller	Lorie Hughes, NEC
Jeannie Kost, NSHC	Jason Harrell, NSHC	Charles Swanson, Koyuk
Frank Myomick, St. Michael	Tom Vaden, LEPC	Charlie Brown, Golovin
Robert Tokeienna, Wales	Mary David, Kawerak	Megan Alvanna Stimpfle, NSHC/Kawerak
Melanie Bahnke, Kawerak	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins	John Waghiyi, Savoonga
Karla Nayokpuk, Shishmaref	Roxanne, Nome	Dolly Kugzruk, Teller
Dr. Terry O'Malia, NSHC		

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION</b>
Introduction to Meeting – Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO	<p>Angie gave an introduction regarding the purpose, standing agenda, and frequency of the call. The daily call will be at 11 am Monday through Friday and will include NSHC administration and Medical Staff. The Standing Agenda includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Prayer</li> <li>2) Medical Staff Briefing</li> <li>3) What happens if there is a confirmed case in a village</li> <li>4) NSHC Surge Plan</li> <li>5) Isolation/Quarantine Liability Questions answered</li> <li>6) Question's</li> </ol> <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at <a href="mailto:rlean@nshcorp.org">rlean@nshcorp.org</a> anytime or text to 907-434-1927 and they will be answered during the 11:00 am call.</p>
Prayer	Prayer was given
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<p>Dr. Mark Peterson gave a briefing and also went over the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 133 COVID-19 cases in Alaska, up 14 cases in 24 hours</li> <li>- No COVID-19 in our region</li> <li>- 17 tests that have been done at NSHC, 14 are negative and 3 are pending</li> <li>- 500 test kit's available in our Region, in Nome and Village Communities</li> </ul> <p>ANMC situation report: no cases in their hospital, 3 patients that have tested positive but are at home, 13 are under investigation. Will find how many have been tested at ANMC.</p>
What happens if there is a confirmed case in a village? – Mark Peterson	<p>Dr. Peterson gave what our response would be for if we get a confirmed case in the village.</p> <p>If we get a case in a village our response is going to vary depending on the situation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) If a patient shows up at the clinic or call's the nurse call line(what we want to happen is to call) and need to have them tested they will be tested outside the clinic like a drive by testing and get asked questions.</li> <li>2) If they are doing well they will ask them to quarantine at home and if they can</li> </ol>

	<p>not quarantine at home they will quarantine at another location.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) It will be 4-7 days before results come back.</li> <li>4) If the results come back positive and continue to do really well there is not more that would be done.</li> <li>5) If there is a case in the village it would be handled by the midlevel and health aides and the physicians in Nome on the phone and they can quarantine at home or in another unit.</li> <li>6) If the patient were to get ill and need care beyond what the village can provide then we would go out and get the patient.</li> <li>7) If two or three patients present symptoms and it gets a little chaotic and the situation is difficult to figure out quarantining and isolation for the patients and that's when we would send a team out to help get everything organized and put things together.</li> <li>8) It will be on a case by case basis depending on the situation and we will be as prepared as possibly can and we will hand the situation on how it presents.</li> </ol>
<p>NSHC Surge Plan – Dr. Mark Peterson, and Dr. Terrence O'Malia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dr. Peterson went over that Dr. O'Malia has been preparing the Surge Plan for the hospital and the Surge Plan will be posted on the Norton Sound website when it is complete.</li> <li>➤ Dr. O'Malia stated the following for the Surge Plan:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have the capability to admit Covid patients to an inpatient isolation unit dedicated to nothing but infectious disease. That is our plan for right now and hopefully don't need to expand on that plan</li> <li>▪ Our acute care facility can take care of 20 patients and if we need to we can double up to 40 patients for just Covid patients</li> <li>▪ Should we need more we would move down to our ambulance surgery center where we do have rooms that can be isolated</li> <li>▪ We are in a really good spot to take care of COVID-19 patients.</li> <li>▪ We are making sure that staff is up to date on how to operate ventilators and preparing for Covid-19</li> <li>▪ We can manage at least 75 patients within the hospital building</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Liability from NSHC – Angie Gorn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSHC is prepared to use a lease if needed for buildings that we do not own. For example we are in the process of signing a no cost lease to use the Nome Youth Facility and will pay Utilities, Liability, and Property insurance. We would use the same process with all of the villages.</li> <li>➤ As far as when we get to the point where we need to care for patients and need to keep them comfortable for the two to three weeks while they isolate, NSHC is prepared to make sure the patients and residents are fed and cared for. NSHC will take responsibility and handle on a case by case basis.</li> </ul>
<p>Questions – everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>What is NSHC method to try and get more ventilators?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Production has been ramped up for ventilators and everyone is looking for them. NSHC has ramped up the stop from it getting to our region and hopefully if we need more it will be later and there will be availability.</li> <li>▪ If we happen to have a surge of patients we are able to share resources with ANMC and ANTHC share their resources with other tribal health facilities.</li> <li>▪ Information was sent to NSHC on how to request ventilators from the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- national level.
- We have put in a lot of requests and we are preparing a letter for our congressional delegation regarding immediate needs.
  - **On social media there have been information about people who are out and about wearing face mask should we be doing that?**
    - CDC has only been recommending mask only if they are sick and not recommending mask for general public unless they are sick. There is other information out there and we want to make sure there are masks available.
    - We should all be aware of what CDC is saying and that it may be shifting.
    - There is currently a shortage on masks and that health personnel should have access to using the masks and being able to get them. For now we do not recommend for people without symptoms; do not need to wear them unless they are sick.
  - **Comment was made about the flights with Alaska airlines possibly being cut back to 2 or 3, and about the City permit process.**
    - Glen with the City stated that the flights have been carrying freight and we want to make sure we continue to get freight. He is working with Alaska Airlines and is in communication with them. Glen also discussed some other information that the City is requiring and their permit process.
  - **Can NSHC send rubber gloves to for each home in Shishmaref?**
    - Whatever the request may be please send request to Reba Lean at [rean@nshcorp.org](mailto:rean@nshcorp.org).
  - **Melanie with Kawerak made the following comments:**
    - 1) Currently 2 out of the 5 villages that do not have water and sewer their hand sanitizer shipment has arrived
    - 2) A committee with Kawerak has made the request to do supplemental for college students who are trying to make their way home. They have request \$1,000.00 which will be presented to the Kawerak board. If it is approved we are requesting for the students to sign up for direct deposit because we do not want to deal with paper checks.
  - **Where will you send the supplies and what supplies are available and which villages have received hand sanitizer?**
    - Hand sanitizers have been requested from Soldotna to Nome and Nome has received small batches and have sent it to Stebbins and Teller.
    - Last week NSHC filled several boxes and they were sent to the tribe or the city. We do not have a large enough supply to supply every household. We will come up with a process where household can let us know if they need supplies. This will be on a case by case basis.
    - NSHC has put in a request to ANTHC for household cleaning supplies. Keeps the request going to Reba and we will fill them as we can.
  - **If someone takes allergy medicine and is traveling and is sneezing and or coughing what should they do?**
    - Using masks should be good.
  - **If someone is having an allergic reaction do they make it more susceptible**

**to getting the virus?**

- Would not make them more susceptible but if they are touching their nose or face they could possibly get it from doing that.
- No one should be taking medication that is not prescribed from their doctor just because they think it will prevent them from getting the coronavirus and the same with home test. There is no FDA approved home test. Please be cautious for fraud.
- **Where can I get a mask for my allergy?**
  - Can get one delivered through the medication delivery.
- **If someone is in quarantine and let's says they start showing symptoms on day 15 or 16, is there scientific data that shows that they symptoms don't deliver after 14 days?**
  - Anyone that is sick at work they need to go home, and need to call the nurse call line and take care of themselves.
- **What kind of help with NSHC provide to employers that are being self-quarantine and go back to work?**
  - Public health mentioned that if someone who was in contact with someone that is positive they will quarantine for 14 days and once the 14 days is up they will get a form from public health saying they are good unless they have certain symptoms. NSHC does not have a form once someone is done with quarantine.
  - Would like a form developed for this per tribal member.
- **Preston will be attending the ANTHC board meeting and if any village has any concerns to write Preston a letter.**
- **Charlene with Kawerak made a short update:**
  - 1) All villages have put in placed their travel bans
  - 2) Most of the villages have gone through the process of declaring a disaster in response to COVID-19 and those villages that have not sent their request into the state of Alaska should do that immediately.
  - 3) For the villages in our region we have sent out a community health assessment.
  - 4) I also request recommend the city or tribal office to create a separate category in your finance to track the COVID-19 preparation and response so that way it would be easier to request funding.
- **Is the virus preserves in cold or warmer weather?**
  - It is more preserved in cold.
- **When I use a mask and go out how many times can I use it?**
  - Can keep reusing the mask but do not touch the front of it because you are attracting germs in the front so touch it by the earlaps, to store put it in a paper bag and if it becomes wet to no longer use it.
  - If you have masks that were made with fabric you can wash them and reuse them.
- **Comment was made that we have a shortage on masks state and nation wide and if you are someone that can sew please think about sewing mask for people and our health facilities.**
  - If you need fabric please email Reba.
- **Recommendation to put a PSA about fraud and send it to the tribal entities.**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Is NSHC still taking donations for masks?</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Yes they are</li></ul></li><li>○ Ending remarks were made by tribal leaders about coming together and how we all communities are doing well with preparing.</li></ul>
Ending remarks – Angie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Angie commented on what NSHC will work:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Type of communication or form that can help employers outside of NSHC to re-enter employees that are coming out of their quarantine</li><li>▪ Additional communication to order or request health keeping supplies, general supplies</li></ul></li><li>➤ Thank you and we will talk tomorrow.</li></ul>