

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
April 7, 2020**

Chase Gray, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC
Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director, NSHC	Charles Swanson, Koyuk	Howard Weyiouanna, City of Shishmreaf
Carolyn O, City of Teller	Tony Haugen, Native Village of Unalakleet	Nelson Mixsooke, BSNC
Jeannie Kost, NSHC	Opik Ahkinga, Diomede	Frances Ozenna, Diomede
Karla Nayokpuk, Mayor, City of Shishmaref	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins	Cora, City of Teller
Charlene Saclamana, Kawerak	Cherri McConnell	Mary David
Carol Piscoya	Charlene Isabell, Teller	Jolene Olson
John Bioff, Kawerak	Glenn Steckman, Manager, City of Nome	Tiffany Martinson, CEO, Nome Eskimo Community
Robert Tokieanna Jr, Wales	Sean Lee, NSHC	Kevin Bahnke, Nome Eskimo Community
Dolly Kugzruk, Teller	Joanne Keyes, Wales	Dan Harrelson, City of White Mountain
Polly Nayokpuk, Native Village of Shishmaref	Toby, Golovin	Ronda Burnett, NSHC
Axel Jackson, Native Village of Shaktoolik	Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM	Janice Knowlton, KINC
Jason Harrel, NSHC	Lori Hughes, Nome Eskimo Community	Preston Rookok, Savoonga
Blanche Garnie, City of Teller	Charlie Brown, Golovin	Barb Gray, Native Village of Council
Carol Charles, NSHC	Andrew Norris, Kawerak	Rhonda West, Council

*There were over 75 callers in today's meeting

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
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"> 1) Prayer 2) Medical Staff Briefing 3) State of Alaska Public Health 4) Knews 5) Questions <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at rlean@nshcorp.org anytime or text to 907-434-1927 and they will be answered during the 11:00 am call.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Angie shared that Norton Sound is very grateful and thankful to an organization that is called Samaritan's Purse. You may have heard about some of their contributions and efforts specifically in the state of Alaska. We are in receipt of 1,000 procedures mask, 5,00 N95 masks, gowns, gloves, garbage bags, 10 hospital beds, and a variety of miscellaneous items. I just wanted to share how thankful we are for that as we move into the prayer today.
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"> - 213 cases in the state, 22 new cases within the last 24 hours - 0 positive cases in our region

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23 tests that have been done at NSHC, 20 are negative and 3 are pending - We are getting Point of Care testing in Nome now which is the Abbott test kits from ANMC. They are sending out to THO's in the region. ANMC can now run rapid testing which is up to 500 test a day. We can now send test directly to them. So if we want to test a large number of people we can with help from ANMC. The testing unit arrived today and our lab is getting them set up and planning on running test by Friday at the end of this week. When we get a positive case we can then find who the contacts are and get them tested right away to avoid a wide spread. - This virus is very contagious and is everywhere. We will eventually get the virus here in our region but do not know when or how many. \ - We should continue the social distancing, hand washing, cloth mask to slow the spread of this. - We will be ready for it when it does get here.
<p>State of Alaska Public Health</p>	<p>Deanna Stang stated the following for the confirmed case in Bethel and processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not have any information from the State of Alaska that she can share. There have been statements that have been put out by YK their native corporation and some news articles like ADN. - The section of Public Health Nursing and the section of Epidemiology are working jointly to interview all positive confirmed COVID cases for any contacts that may have been exposed. It is a state wide processes and my whole entire section number one job is to respond quickly to interview the confirmed cases and to identify to quickly and how everyone is working together.
<p>KNews</p>	<p>Reba stated the following about the KNews that is coming out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Putting the final touches on a shorter version of KNews that will be coming out - All information in it is dedicated to COVID-19 - Should be going to your mailbox - Talks about what COVID-19 is, CDC recommendation, how we identify cases, how people get testing, difference between isolation and quarantining and a lot of information - Social Distance coloring contest - Should be out next week and to look in your mail boxes
<p>Questions - everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Has the state done some modeling? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes ▪ Deanna has invited the EOC to view. o Been thinking about the 1918 flu and comparison to COVID-19 and was wondering how long the 1918 flu lasted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Peterson thinks it lasted under a year. Every virus is different and we do not think how it will act. All experts are saying to expect it to last long term. We are preparing for it to return in the full just in case. It is hard to say, We may see a big improvement for June or July 2020. ▪ The virus will mutate and virus does change. We do not know how it will change. May get stronger or weaker. As we are going to summer Australia is going into winter so we will be

seeing how it changes. After the Spanish flu there was another wave of another flu that came.

- **Is NSHC collaborating with statewide organizations or individually?**
 - NSHC is part of the ANTHC Consortia. We are meeting with them weekly on Monday's and sharing ideas. We are supporting each other how we can. ANTHC supports the most of the state. We are part of the State Hospital Association and we are collaborating with Regional and Providence hospital also. Tribal Environmental Offices are collaborating with each other on information also.
- **Has Ravn air affected Norton Sounds operations?**
 - Not between our villages and Nome. Unalakleet and Anchorage are probably the most effected.
- **If someone is symptomatic, how long can they share the virus?**
 - What we know from epidemiology right now is that in general whether a person has symptoms or not the virus tends to be out of their system within 14 days. That's where the 14 day quarantine comes from.
- **Has anyone in the medical field heard of anyone getting COVID-19 more than once?**
 - There are people that have gotten the virus again but it is a new virus and we are still trying to learn about it.
- **Will the new unit be accurate?**
 - The new unit that we have should be very accurate and we know the unit that ANMC has is extremely accurate and accuracy for testing should not be a problem.
- **Do you have the unit's in region now?**
 - We just received the unit this morning via gold streak and will take a couple of days for lab to set up. Looking to have it up and running by Friday.
- **Is there a plan in place for the elders and children to be sent out from the village since they are the most vulnerable?**
 - Elders and those with poor immune system are in the high risk group. Children do get sick but they are not in the high risk group. Where is the virus at? Anchorage, Seattle. The safest place right now is in the villages where there are no cases. If an elder has a place where they have running water, and food that would be the best place right now. We do worry about crowded homes in the villages and the family that lives with elders need to be extremely careful.
 - Comment was made on what Shaktoolik is currently doing for their elders.
- **Can people transmit it to animals?**
 - We do know that some animals can get it. Dr. Peterson is not concerned about people getting it through the Iditarod. It was a good move to close down the Iditarod gatherings.
- **There was discussion on Friday about patients getting cancer treatment in Nome are there any update?**
 - Should get an update later today
- **Can the people traveling from Fairbanks or Anchorage be tested so they do**

not have to be quarantine for that long?

- Don't want to test people who do not have testing. There is no protocol for those situations. Unfortunately the 14 day quarantine is the best we can offer at this point.

- **If I leave my village for medical can I request a test when I get home?**
 - If you travel to Anchorage you will be required to either quarantine in your village or Nome. We are only testing those who have symptoms.
- **Are face masks available at NSHC to be distributed to the villages?**
 - NSHC is currently accepting donations. Should check with your local clinic to see if they have any available. Also BSSD is helping with making masks in their communities.
- **People that are going into the hospital, assuming they need to be tested, are they using a separate entrance?**
 - We have security at the front and back entrance to help with assisting people coming in to NSHC and the flow is pretty restricted at this time. All of our entrances are safe and sterilized to come in. If you are wondering if you are needing to be seen call the nurse call line to find out if you need to come in and if you do they will assist you on which entrance to come in from.
- **The 23 test that have been performed can we get specific on if they were performed in Nome or from the villages?**
 - Do not know the specific but test have come from around broadly across our region. As we go forward we can try and get information. We do need to be careful on what we share but can get something started. At this time we do not have a specific village we are concerned about.
- **What is the Norton Sound trash pickup procedure?**
 - Regarding trash pickup in the village, we have made sure to education the staff.
 - NSHC is a health care organization and has always had to dispose of red bag waste and we have an existing policy in place that we would continue to follow.
- **What is your red bag policy for discarding the waste?**
 - It is different in community due to the waste disposal.
- **Regional Clinic will be provided with a incinerator if the region does end up with this virus?**
 - Angie will follow up with the village clinic improvement program.
- **Dr. Peterson made a comment that during this pandemic they need to be thinking about their mental health and if you are feeling overwhelmed and need to see someone and talk about this please contact NSHC because we can do telemed visits right to your home with behavior health. We are all feeling this and if it is getting the best of you and it is not allowing you to do what you need to do to get in contact with us.**
- **What is the process if you have an appointment in Anchorage?**
 - Can get a hold of Jason Hassel our patient advocate in Anchorage. His work number is 907-434-2844.
- **How many NSHC representatives do we have in our villages? How many**

	<p>NSHC representatives are attending the meetings daily?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should be 22 for the NSHC board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If I have a sore throat would that give me a reason to go into the clinic to get tested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up until this week if you are sick stay home, but if getting worse and need attention to come see us. Now we have a change and we have testing locally and can be testing more people. Dr. Peterson will be educating all medical care attendees in the villages and in Nome and the nurse call line that since we have testing available and can test more people that if people are sick and have symptoms even if they have not traveled or has been in contact, this may not be in effect until next week. Things are changing and several have to update staff to the change. If you are not feeling well you can certainly call the nurse line or the clinic today. ○ Reba brought up a reminder that this Thursday is Norton Sounds Health Aide appreciation day. This week would be a great way to thank your health aides. ○ Angie wanted to report that she got in touched with a TelAlaska Rep and they will hopefully be at one of the meetings this week. She is still trying to get in touch with GCI to coordinate to have them call in together. ○ Concern was brought up on how many passengers are in cabs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The city is going to try and meet with cab drivers about this issue.
<p>Ending remarks – Angie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Angie thanked everyone that called in today and will talk to everyone tomorrow.