

**1000COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
April 15, 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	Kirsten Timbers, NSHC	Carol Charles, NSHC
Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle	Mary David, Kawerak	Charles Swanson, Koyuk
Howard Weyiouanna, City of Shishmaref	Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomede	Cora, City of Teller
Tiffany Martinson, NEC	Donna James, Kawerak	Jolene Olson, Kawerak
Robert Tokieanna Jr., Wales	Traci McGarry, Kawerak	John Waghiyi, Savoonga
Marie Katcheak, Stebbins	Andrew Norris, Kawerak	Kevin Bahnke, NEC
Dolly Kuzgruk, Teller	Roy Ashenfelter, Kawerak	Tony Haugen, Native Village of Unalakleet
Dan Harrelson, City of White Mountain	Cody, Golovin	Karla Nayokpuk, City of Shishmaref
Robert Keith, Native Village of Elim	Kelly Otton, City of Unalakleet	Rhonda West, Native Village of Council
Toby, Golovin	Michelle Ningulook, Golovin	Carol Charles, NSHC
Paul Kosto, LEPC	Deborah, Wales	

- Over 120 participants in today's call

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"> <li>1) Prayer</li> <li>2) Questions NSHC received after press release</li> <li>3) Medical Staff Briefing</li> <li>4) Presentation on funding available – Geoff Strommer</li> <li>5) Comments and Questions</li> </ol> <p>6 min for Angie's statement – 8 min</p> <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
Questions that NSHC received after press release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Why isn't the confirmed case included in the statistics by location on the Department of Health and Social Services website?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The States statistics are reported during the time frame of 12 midnight to 12 midnight. The Norton Sound test result was not received until yesterday afternoon April 14<sup>th</sup> and may not be received by the State until 6 am this morning April 15<sup>th</sup> and that's because of something called batch reporting to the State by a commercial laboratory.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Is the new confirmed case community spread or travel related?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The State of Alaska Public Health Department is investigating the case and they will determine that and we will release that information not Norton Sound Health Corporation. Norton Sound shares your concern and we are hoping that information will be available today when they announce more information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Can Norton Sound Health Corporation share the community that the person lives in that tested positive?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I know this is really hard but the answer is No. Norton Sound is following our privacy policy as well as national privacy laws that prevent us from releasing any information at all which could be lead to identification of this individual. Because most of our communities are very small we want to have the same policy across the board regardless of which community a case may arrive in. For example if we release information in communities over 500 but not under 500 we would be identifying that it was in one of those communities, which could further identify that individual. Another example we look at when the State releases information they only give details on a State wide level but not case by case. Giving the very small population in our region protecting all of our patient’s privacy is a very high priority of ours. We do not want to risk individuals that are sick to not come forward for fear of being identified in their community. So please be assuring that Public Health and Norton Sound are cooperating and reaching out to contacts with anyone who had contact with someone who was positive accordingly. Now the State policy on identification may be different than Norton Sound. However we will continue to not identify communities or provide further detail on patients who test positive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>If Norton Sound cannot share the community the person tested positive lives in, what guidance should all of our communities use than to update travel bans or restrictions?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Norton Sound will strongly encourage communities to use travel restrictions. They need to each act like them themselves are infection or A symptomatic carrier. A symptomatic means you do not show any symptoms but may carry the virus. So if we all act like we could share it, then we will act in such a way to protect others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director</p>	<p>Dr. Mark Peterson gave the medical staff update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 285 cases in the state, 98 recovered, 9 death</li> <li>- ANMC has 0 inpatient, and 8 outpatient</li> <li>- Over 2 million people that have gotten the virus in the world</li> <li>- 60 test, 23 in house test, 55 test negative, 1 positive, 4 pending</li> <li>- 1 positive case in region</li> <li>- Business as usual</li> <li>- Knew we would be getting cases</li> <li>- All the things we do we need to continue doing, washing hands, wearing mask, social distance</li> <li>- We do want anyone and everyone who has any symptoms that could be related to COVID to come in and get tested. To do that call the nurse triage line, or village clinic, or NSHC clinic to come in</li> <li>- 658 test kits in the region and do want people to get tested</li> <li>- To find the virus people will monitor their symptoms, come in and get tested, and then isolate if positive</li> <li>- Any of the test that are developed are not perfect test</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The test in this case is ID Now and at ANMC are sensitive and is most sensitive if you have symptoms</li> <li>- If a patients has no symptoms it is likely the test will not come back positive because of the sensitivity of the test</li> <li>- If a symptom appears get tested</li> </ul>
<p>Presentation on funding available – Geoff Strommer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Geoff provided an update on different funding that is out there for tribes.</b></li> <li>- <b>Deadline to submit information to the Treasury Department is April 19th</b></li> <li>○ <b>When entering information into the portal we are having problems.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kawerak is working with the tribes and working on getting them set up with the portal. Contact tribal affairs with Kawerak with help on this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Questions and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Unable to find bleach, spray bottles, clorax wipes and other items in the stores.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working on getting additional supplies out the village and if you are needing supplies in your village please get a list to Reba Lean at <a href="mailto:rean@nshcorp.org">rean@nshcorp.org</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Suggestion was made to get cleaning supplies for agents in the villages to meet the plane.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Wales has not received their shipment of hand sanitizers.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Angie stated that they are packing Wales shipment and it should get there tomorrow.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>What more can we know about for medication for COVID-19?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As of right now there is no medication for COVID-19. Right now we are waiting for a vaccine we are hopefully it will be in the next year and hopefully that will be most effective. As a hospital we review medication and discuss to see what medication that is proven to be helpful. We are following guidelines that are out there. CDC is a good website to look out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>I am assuming you are working with the individual with quarantine for 14 days. Would the individual be tested again?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Health is educating the individual and close contacts</li> <li>▪ If close contacts are showing symptoms, they will be tested</li> <li>▪ Once they are healthy, they have two options; 1) Symptom base strategy or 2) Test based strategy</li> <li>▪ No one with COVID-19 is not going to be released back into their community until they are free of the disease</li> <li>▪ Travel restrictions will also be followed</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>What should we do in the public?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social distance, wash hands, sanitize high touch areas, send one person to the store rather everyone going at once, utilize delivery services in Nome or shop for those in quarantine or isolation, limit the time you go to the store or post office, only touch items you are going to buy and bring home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>If someone has COVID-19 and have difficulty breathing can they take anything?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yes we can give them oxygen in the hospital. There is nothing that you can really do before hand to increase oxygen except to quit smoking if you are a smoker.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- **Suggestion was made to start keeping a log when you go out and possibly who you are in contact with at which location.**
- **Some of us are getting ready for subsistence hunting, and we need a crew what can we do?**
  - Being outside is an okay place to be. Being with other is not part of social distancing but when possible maintains distance. A single hunter or fisherman or household's hunting together is fine but other people from other households even two is not a good idea.
- **Discussion was held about substance hunting.**
- **Our members rely on subsistence food. How do we safely subsist with social distancing in place?**
  - If you are with your household there is no need for masks, but if you introduce another household you should wear a face mask. Washing your hands a lot.
  - Reba will work on getting education for how to safely subsist.
- **Can steaming, and using stinkweed help with COVID-19?**
  - Should be fine to use in moderation but if you have symptoms go get tested.
- **I know the tribes in the villages have received benefits but can Nome Eskimo tribal members receive benefits?**
  - NSHC has provided checks to all tribal entities and only members of villages have been requesting items but if you have a need email Reba Lean at [rlean@nshcorp.org](mailto:rlean@nshcorp.org) and needs will be meet on a case by case basis.
  - Tiffany Martinson, President of NEC took comment down.
- **Discussion was held about travel to the villages and what some villages are doing with their stores.**
- **Can we have other household's watch our children?**
  - With this it is not ideal for people to go to other household because you may get the virus or you may spread the virus if someone has it. It would be ideal if someone in the household can watch the children. If not possible make sure to be cleaning in either place.
- **Wales does not have a place to quarantine if someone gets the virus. Would that person be sent to Nome?**
  - We are working with each village to find out what is best for their community.