

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
April 20, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Charles Swanson, Koyuk	Charlie Brown, Golovin	John Waghiyi, City of Savoonga
Deborah, Wales	Dan Harrelson, White Mountain	Jenny Lee, Teller
Robert Keith, Elim		

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) Update and Responses 3) Medical Staff Briefing 4) Quarantine Lead Information 5) Comments and 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>
Prayer	Prayer was given
Angie Gorn	<p>Update and Responses from Friday April 17th meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All staff no matter what position come to work and were all wearing cloth mask unless an employee is able to work quietly in their office - Norton Sound has started a shuttle service for our employees and that is our way making sure they have safe transportation so that we do not have to rely on cabs - Hand sanitizer was shipped to Wales and we will follow up with the community - On Friday there is a strong need to reach as many people as possible with the information that you are all hearing during this teleconference. We did reach out to Laurli Ivanoff and we did ask her to work very closely with us to come up with a record message, such as a pod cast, to be shared frequently with our radio stations - Suggestion was shared to get really big sign's in our communities and there are key prevention messages that we will need to continue to follow. Those messages will not go away in a couple of months and this is something that we need to continue to promote so we will also work with Kawerak along with Laurli Ivanoff as our artist to come with a cultural messages that can be printed

	<p>on a large billboard through the villages and here in Nome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hand washing buckets with a spigot such as you see in the K News that we distributed with the education, NSHC has ordered those for our unserved communities all of the households and those buckets are on their way - There was a suggest for Norton Sound to provide outreach to any of our clients in the independent living program and that department has reached out to those clients and made sure that they are aware of these calls and that their attendant can help with them calling in - Some folks may not have cell phone so you may see a post shortly by Norton Sound that cell phones are available for families that may not have one. Those phones are important to call your provider, family, friends, so that the household is staying informed - We heard the concerns loud and clear about making Norton Sound considers keeping the community safe with all communication - Norton Sound will consider following laws about privacy, however we have worked together as a team and we have identify that there is a way that we can ask for that patients permission to release their home community. We would not release that person’s name - On Friday we talked about sharing more information on VHF. Reba Along with the minutes last Friday shared some talking points and want to thank Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle, she was very instrumental on putting those together and those have been shared for all of you and those will be great points to share on your VHF radio - On our situation report we do report out how many test have been done and what the status of those test are and we are going to alter a way we report out on our situation reports and we will start to include the number of active cases, and recovered cases - As you know we have had 1 confirmed case in our region, 0 active cases at this time, and 1 person has recovered
<p>Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Peterson, Medical Director</p>	<p>Dr. Peterson gave updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the state of Alaska the previous 24 hour period: 5 new cases, total is now 319, have been seeing low numbers in the past several 24 hour periods and it is very good to see that and that means we are keeping the curve down and managing the positive cases - Alaska is doing a good job watching people closely and keeping the social distance to a minimum - ANMC: 0 inpatient, 10 outpatient, no new cases - In our region: 0 current active cases, 1 recovered case, 167 test done, keep in mind a week and a half ago we were sitting at doing 30 test, 72 test done in house, 95 sent out, 122 are negative, 44 are pending <p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have gone through a change where we were only testing people that meet certain criteria, those who have traveled to the lower 48 and those who have been around someone with COVID-19 and that has symptoms - Now we have test kits here and have over 400 test kits in our region and continue to receive more from ANMC and we hope that supply chain contains

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Now we have availability to test more broadly and we know that patients will have the virus that may not present any symptoms - We want to start testing broadly but do not want to run out of test kits and want to stay ahead of it - One of the best way to know is to be testing broadly - Just need a little time to get the following organized - Our plans for in Nome, we are going to start testing asymptomatic people, first will be testing NSHC employees, police, EMT, Traveling crew in the next couple of weeks - Looking to have 2-3 hours of anyone in town who would like to get testing done 3-4 days out of the week - Looking at getting 10% of people in our region tested, in Nome we are half way there - Wanting to open things up and we will work this week to get things in place - Our plan for in the villages we know from last Friday's call that there have been some road blocks to have testing there - Looking to get hunters, whalers, employees, store clerks tested first - Need some time to get this organized but will get this set up - Looking for hours and dates, locations to get tested in the villages - Region wide, broader testing is coming <p>Subsistence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For those concerned about hunting and whaling, Testing will be available to get testing - Would like to have separate discussion about hunting and subsistence and how to do it safely <p>If someone wants to get tested they should come in and get tested. We need to have test kits around in case people get sick.</p> <p>OB 20 Week Ultrasounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have several women in the villages that are pregnant and need their 20 week ultrasound. The 20 week ultrasound is done to look and to check for problems. So we are looking to get these done in the villages. We have an ultrasound tech in town that is willing to fly up to the villages to get these done. She has been here for months and she is certainly health and safe to travel to the villages. They are reaching out to the villages that are involved I happen to know Unalakleet, Elim, Golovin, Koyuk, Stebbins, and two others are involved. - Our plan is to either charter or regular Bering Air flight to bring our technician and the small ultrasound to the clinics, have the women come through, have everyone have mask and gloves on, and get the exams done and have the tech come back. - We are sending out letters requesting to complete these.
<p>Quarantine – Amy Hollis</p>	<p>Amy was able to go over the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have multiple people working on quarantining in every location - In Nome we have identified multiple places for those who quarantine or need isolation off campus and on campus - We do also have places on standby if we do reach capacity - On the village side almost all locations have identified a location for isolation,

	<p>and many have identified location for isolation and quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of Friday we were waiting on final arrangements to be made by Brevig, Teller, and Gambell and I was told by Rachel Lee that those communities were meeting and discussing so it is very likely we will have that information today - All of those are in varies stages on getting prepared - We are also aware that quarantine places in the village are helpful because people are able to go back home to quarantine but maybe the housing situation is not ideal that they could do that safely - We are tracking our patients that are coming from Anchorage to Nome - Increasing efforts on tracking patients to their home location - We are helping answer questions when they return home if something were to come up - Every day the system gets better - Can contact Amy at any time with questions - We are picking up people in Nome so they do not have to take cabs - Please reach out to them for transportation to housing and back to the airport - ANMC is sending patients back with masks to wear, we are also doing it too - Educating patients on how to prevent spread
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a test to see if someone had COVID-19 in November-February? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is very unlikely that anyone had it back then since it was first in Alaska in March. ▪ There is a test for antibodies and can make a request to get tested in Nome. ○ How do we pay for those cell phones? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cell phone is cover by Norton Sound Health Corporation. ○ Does the individual need to fill out a packet for one? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To get the process started they need to reach out to Reba and NSHC will work with each individual or family to assist them with the process. ○ In White Mountain there are a lot of concerns in people traveling from Anchorage. Is there a way that they can test when they return? Let's say there is a household member that came back from Anchorage and is doing quarantine and there is a child in the household and the child in that household is going out and playing in the yard and there are other kids from other household that goes over to that yard and is playing with that child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We asked the state and ANMC to direct us on health care workers returning to the hospital. It is the same for people and travel. 3 options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 14 day quarantine is the best in the home town, as long as you don't develop symptoms you are good to go 2) If they want to start work before 14 days they can quarantine for 7 days and get testing on 1 day, and 7 day and work while wearing mask and gloves the whole time 3) Get testing done on day 1 and 7 and wear mask and gloves the whole time at work and out ▪ The best way is option 1.

- MAS: I just wanted to add that I really appreciated your opening comment that you are opening testing in the communities, your opening testing in Nome and the very short answer is if a person wants to go get tested to get tested and to reiterate the importance to the communities that it will help informing where it might be, where it might not be, the short answer is testing is available.
 - You are correct we will testing and will get it going so if a person is making you nervous they can do the testing. I am just saying be careful that it does not replace a quarantine plan. A test can give you reassurance in your mind which is great but make sure that if you have to do 14 days quarantine that you do the 14 day quarantine. If you want to get tested to get test to give you a piece of mine. So quarantining at home and you have kids that are out walking about. I get that. We want them to social distance or wear mask and if you get sick yourself one of your contacts may be your children but they have been protecting themselves. Ideal would be that the person would quarantine without family in there or from space from family. It's not always possible but remembers looking at the number Alaska is doing a great job and that we are concerned about it and watching it closely is very helpful. I do not have a solution for keeping kids in their house and it's an individual thing and if parents can do that, that's great. If quarantine in Nome is required by the village we do accommodate that.
- **NSHC has 500 tests, and was wondering if we started testing individuals will this number decrease and will you have to order from other places?**
 - Yes we will have to continue requesting test and we should be able to stay very well supplies.
- **A participation stated that they attended the meeting on Friday and that they stated that they would put up a post on facebook asking if individual's in the villages and communities what their concerns were for getting tested. Most have suggested that they would get tested to protect their family and community. They think there are still people that are hesitant and will leave it up. There was one comment on their stating the test that can be done in Nome have a 4 hour timeline and is that true? Is that what we are doing or our test from the villages getting sent elsewhere?**
 - What we found out is that each test in the village needs to go to ANMC. The reason is the kind of swab that is used in the analyzer in Nome has to get to our test kit here within 12 hours. It is possible that a swab done in the village could get to our lab and get done in a 12 hour period. If not it's not a guaranteed thing. We are sending all village swabs to ANMC and an ANMC test kit runs it within 24 hours. If you get sick in the village, you get swabbed, you're going to go to isolation at that point, you will be by yourself, and test kit will go to Anchorage to get tested and will get the results in 48 hours. The kinds of swab we need to use a special contain and can be run at ANMC. If someone in Nome we can run it on our test kits and possibly get the results same day.
 - More discussion was held on testing in Nome, and the villages.

- **MAS: Thank you Dr. Peterson. I wanted to reiterate on your comment and Norton Sound has two additional Abbott ID Now testers correct? One only in option?**
 - Yes
- **MAS: In the event someone does become ill can one of those testers be sent immediately and get rapid testing for the entire population? I'm wondering if you are doing some sort of planning like that?**
 - If we had test a large group of people, I think the fastest way to do that would be to get a bunch of test kits ready from ANMC or the state, send to the village, test the whole village, send them to ANMC and have them run on their analyzer that can run 400 test in 24 hours. Logically we think Nome is closer let's get it done on our machine but the Abbott ID Now run's one test at a time. It takes 15 minutes for set up and then one test at a time. Getting it to a bigger analyzer at ANMC is a way to do a large number of people. When we get the other platform in Nome that will be another way to do a large amount of people. However if you want to bring testing closure to a village, not necessary a large numbers but just closer to a village to get results faster that would be bringing our ID Now little tester to the village and setting it up there.
- **Thinking about flights from Nome to Anchorage my understanding is that we are down to three flights a week, is there still availability to send down test every day or will they have to wait?**
 - Probably going to have to wait until Monday, Wednesday, and Friday when Alaska Airlines can get them out. There will not be flights on the weekend. If someone shows up to the clinic with symptoms of COVID-19 we are going to assume that they have it. Remember there is really not a treatment for it. We will put them in quarantine, we are going to support them and have patience with the test. We used to wait a week if not longer now the longest we have to wait is usually 48 hours so we are a head of the curve there. Having the test results within 48 hours that is better than what we were getting before. We are in the situation where we have this virus and everything is getting shut down but we want results quickly it is like a tug a war. We also have the option to use a medivac team. If we have a medivac going to Anchorage we can put tests on that flight.
 - We did inform people that we could test within 24 hours but after getting the machine we learned that we were unable to.
- **MAS: Reba did send out exact VHF talking points and as we learn information on these calls that we think are really important for you to share with community members we'll try to create some bullet points that you and other can share. I do want to reiterate that how we hear and understand information that is being recommended, we really need to translate it for our communities. It's the communication that we can improve in ourselves and so if you think want to say something in the talking point that are sent please make them known.**
- **Have you considered having a databank on who goes in and out for medical**

travel? I'm wondering if there is a chance to start something in the villages for the patients that have traveled back to their villages.

- I think what is going to be the easiest is to have testing available for those feel they need it. We have it available and will allow people to get tested. We will always make recommendation on quarantine and if they want to get tested we have the ability to get them tested. If you feel strongly on that than get folks that have been traveling to your village to get tested. That would be fine.
- **Comment was made about prevention on traveling for example masks, and being seeing for medical and wearing a mask that it's really needed.**
 - Norton Sound is still looking for more donations. We have a running list of our employee needs right now and I have been taking request from businesses and community members. Our priority right now is our staff that comes into contact with patients and to get them out to businesses that deal with the public as well. We are receiving request from the community members so we know there is a big need there and what we can offer is help supplying fabric to any mask makers in communities and you can keep sending me request for those supplies I can put you in touch on how to get those. We are still seeking more donations so if anyone out there is a mask maker we would be happy to enlist you in those efforts.
 - A couple of requests were made in today's meeting.
 - Comment was made on possibly reaching out to Sitnasuak.
- **Golovin has not had a flight since Tuesday and in the village they are able to test for strep. Is there a way to get that type of testing in the villages?**
 - Unfortunately Abbott ID Now is a little more complicated than the rapid strep testing and Dr. Peterson is working on getting some for the villages that need them. Prevention is the key, if someone goes to the village and gets tested for COVID-19 we are going to assume they have it and if they are well enough we will have them stay in the village, and if they are to sick we can fly them out.
- **If prevention is key. I think education also. Wearing a mask in cabs, and smaller airlines, it will be important to education those to keep their mask on in that confine place. It is good that they know how to use the mask and are education on it.**
 - NSHC working on welcome packets and can put that education in the packet and will hopefully have it ready for hostel today.
- **Does anyone know what Bering Air is doing for social distancing?**
 - Reba went over the steps Bering Air are taking: reducing flight schedule, following village travel restrictions, employees including pilots are subject to a 14 day quarantine from Nome or Kotzebue from traveling out of region before returning to work, employees are requested to monitor their health with temperature checks daily, employees are asked to stay home when they are sick, they implemented additional cleaning protocols to air craft, lobby's and bathrooms, and they may deny boarding an obvious sick person.
 - Nina with Bering Air stated that what Reba stated is true and that we

	<p>are doing all of them activity as of right now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can you make a Nome-Announcement and KICY and any radio station on when people are coming in for Stebbins? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes we can talk to the staff about that. ○ While passengers are waiting at the terminal in Nome at Bering Air is it required to wear a face mask in the building and on the airplanes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are requesting that passengers travel with some type of face covering. ○ A question was asked about antibody test. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Norton Sound can draw blood and send it out for testing. Dr. Peterson has heard of some rapid test kits where you poke your finger and test the blood. Do not know the accuracy of those and that they are around. Right now we need more test kits that we have and that are where our focus should be. Once we get through this pandemic it might be helpful for us to have a quick test kit to look for antibodies to see the people that have already had it. ▪ MAS: Did hear that ANMC should have the most accurate antibody testing but would have to defer any questions to them. Just tried this weekend to take these little antibody test that the industries try to push onto Bristol Bay and I gave that antibody test to a friend who used it on her kids and those test that people are talking about are not accurate. She just recovered and the line was very very faint line that you could barely see and it's of like a pregnancy test you put your blood on an end and there are lines whether or not antibodies are there and I don't think they are very reliable the current test that are available for antibody testing and ANMC would have the most accuracy. ○ Comment was made that they are thankful that Kawerak and NSHC call in and thanks to Dr. Peterson for attending and his information and knowledge. ○ Savoonga has received the material for making masks and they will give to other members. ○ Is travel for just essential workers? If we were to travel to Nome, to Anchorage, to California for a death in the family, what would your recommendation be? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anyone is allowed to put in a travel permit. I would think that for family emergency there is some type of protocol for that.
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