

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
April 22, 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	Carol Piscoya, Kawerak	Liz Johnson, Kawerak
Tony Haugen, Unalakleet	Karla Nayokpuk, Shishmaref	Dan Harrelson, White Mountain
Barb Gray, Council	Howard Weyiouanna, Shishmaref	Liz Kugzruk, Nome/TLA
Joanne Keyes, Wales	Emma Pate, NSHC OEH	Ronda Burnett, NSHC
Mary David, Kawerak	Elizabeth Rexford	Opik Ahkinga
Frances Ozenna	John Waghiyi	

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) Medical Staff Briefing</li> <li>3) Comments and Questions</li> </ol> <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Reba Lean at <a href="mailto:rean@nshcorp.org">rean@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. Peterson, Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alaska: 6 additional cases in the previous 24 hours, 335 cases, almost 200 are recovered</li> <li>- The governor is talking about opening back up and to probably see a little higher number</li> <li>- ANMC: no changes, 0 inpatient, 10 outpatient</li> <li>- Oxygen and beds are looking good in Anchorage</li> <li>- Region: 209 test done, 157 negative, 51 pending, 1 positive</li> <li>- We are going to start opening up testing and will start with NSHC employees, this is voluntary</li> <li>- Next week are pushing to have the tent up and running and waiting on heating</li> <li>- Village based testing is just needing a little more coordination for example sending out more test kits, sending out PPE</li> <li>- We plan on having the village testing to start next week for anyone that wants to get tested</li> <li>- For substance hunters that is a priority and we are sending out test kits for asymptomatic testing</li> </ul>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Are we getting anymore test kits?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ANMC just sent out 1000 test kits that should be here today. Should be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

able to stay good on supplies.

- **Comment was made about we do have a pandemic that is still going on and about opening up in Alaska.**
- **Did you see the other test kits on the news yesterday?**
  - Dr. Peterson did see that the FDA approved test kits that people can order and do at home. One thing is that you will need to send to a commercial lab and the closest one to us is in the lower 48 so they might not have rural communities in mine.
  - Comment was made that the test is \$120.00 and that you can come to get it at NSHC and will not have to pay any copay.
- **MAS: Question was asked about gloves.**
  - A critical supply order was put in for Medium and extra-large. We did receive that some villages are short on some sizes so we are getting them sent out.
- **Those of us that were scheduled to go to Anchorage for procedures and they were canceled, do we need to call and reschedule? What do you suggest for rescheduling?**
  - Anything that was cancelled or delayed should have been put in as a remind in their system. Once they are up and running they will be calling to reschedule. They are scheduled to reopen May 1<sup>st</sup> so if you do not hear from them by then than give them a call or our case manager. 443-4505 specialty care coordinator contact number.
- **Question was asked about filters for Shishmaref?**
  - Contact Reba and let her know what types of filters are needed.
- **How are they handling people with dental problems?**
  - Our dental department is still open and seeing those with emergency dental problems. You can call and get the dental department. If it is an emergency and need to be seen they will bring them but if they are stable they will request them rate. Dental procedures are high risk for COVID-19. As we open dental back up there will probably be specific guidelines. If someone needs to be seen and it's a dental emergency they will be seen.
- **If there are patients that need to be seen that need to travel to Nome or to Anchorage, how instrumental would PPE be in a mandate for travel?**
  - Ideal would be to wear mask no matter where they go. Not to knowledge if there is a mandate for travel. Do know it's a mandate for the hospital.
  - There is a state mandate to wear a cloth mask when out in public.
  - Should be a requirement to wear in airplane, store post office.
- **Are there masks being handed out from the hospital to patients that are traveling? Is there enough PPE for the villages if there is an outbreak?**
  - If we had an outbreak in a village we plan to get a lot of people involved and possibly the state. We would have employees and equipment go out to the villages and we are stock piling PPE.
  - We are urging that ANMC provide mask to patients that are traveling.
  - Most patients coming into Norton Sound will be given one there. Patients are able to keep them and reuse them and to not throw away

- and make sure to keep clean.
  - We did meet with ANMC and request any patient traveling back to be given a mask and we do have an employee with NSHC that is meeting patients at the airport and giving them a mask.
- **Are pilots wearing masks?**
  - Our medevac team was fitted for N95 masks.
  - Are medevac team is set.
- **A couple of ideas. 1) If you do not have access to a mask roll up a t-shirt and use, some coverage is better than no coverage. 2) Picture was sent to the Norton Sound facebook message of other ways to make face masks if you don't have the material to make a regular mask.**
- **If you don't get mask from providers from ANMC it does not hurt to ask them.**
- **Does anyone have the number for Brevig for approval into Brevig?**
  - City of Brevig 907-642-3851.
- **Who is supposed to follow up on telemed appointments when they are done?**
  - If a patient needs to be seen and needs to be an emergent issue the health aide can see them and talk to the doctor. If not emergent the patient can coordinate with health aide to get a telemed appointment with the providers in Nome.
- **Mentioned that possibly on Friday we can test whalers in Savoonga. Word will get out on social media and at store. I understand that people that will get tested is a voluntary process.**
- **If more than one person in the household is going can one household member get tested? How long will it take to get the results?**
  - I would agree if there are 2-3 whalers from one household it would be reasonable to test one member, we don't want to deny testing. There were 20 test kits sent out to Savoonga. Call the clinic and some whalers need to get tested. It will take about 72 hours to get results back. If someone gets tested and is feeling fine let them go out. If they do test positive we can always send someone out to let them know. Reminder that if someone is feeling sick they should not go.
- **Will you reserve some of the test kits for patients? Will we be able to get it stocked up?**
  - We will include the whaling numbers in the full number. We will always want health aides to set aside 10 kits in case people get sick. We will add 50 test kits to the 10% number for Savoonga.
- **If someone got tested, can they get tested again?**
  - Yes
- **Discussion was held about whaling in Savoonga.**
- **When will there be hand sanitizer for all household's in the villages?**
  - Survey was sent out April 5<sup>th</sup> and they are trying to get a supply of hand sanitizer.
  - MAS: Request that Megan to contact a vendor about supplies.
  - Megan did put in a large order of hand sanitizer with a vendor in Florida and that she continues to work with the state.

- Last weekend we did update the tribal coordinators and IGAP workers and utility contacts on hand sanitizer and is just waiting on an update.
- **Discuss was held on different supplies needed for households and what requests are needed.**
- **Is the \$100,000 from NSEDC specifically for COVID-19 for the villages?**
  - Yes it is going to go directly to the City and will be available immediately.
- **Can the information be shared with the community when items become available?**
  - Yes can put that in the process.
- **NSHC board did make donations to the tribes and can be used at the tribe's discretion. If there is someone in your community that has the time to go on Amazon and for example search for dish soaps. Those donation funds can be used to support your community.**
- **Angie is scheduling the Teller and NSHC call for Friday. She will also share the time of that call.**
- **AS far as testing go in the villages, what is the life span of the swab that needs to be tested?**
  - 72 hours. Probably even shorter than that since we need to get it to ANMC. We can possibly freeze in our lab. We want the health aides to be swabbing when we know there is a flight within 24 hours. If there are no flights on the weekend we do not want to be testing on the weekend. We also have to keep in mind the flights from Nome to Anchorage. Looking at testing to be Monday and Wednesday.
  - It is 72 hours to Nome and we can get into our freezer and preserve it for ANMC.
- **Many people have had colds and are now they are feeling better, should they now be tested?**
  - **If they are feeling well they don't need to do testing but when antibody testing comes out they should do that. If they do have colds to go in and get tested.**
- **Should people with spring time allergies that have some added symptoms should they be concerned as well?**
  - If it is a typical allergy symptom they don't have to get COVID-19 test but right now we want to get people tested so why not go in to get tested because we have test kits.
- **Once someone is tested, do they need to stay in isolation or quarantine for 14 days?**
  - If someone is ill, you will call the triage line, get in, be seen, and get tested. They will ask question and swab you. They should be able to get results in 72 hours. If we are worried and test you with symptoms you should than go home separate from your family and quarantine until the results are back. If someone that is asymptomatic and wants to get tested because they work in a store and do not have symptoms we would not require them to quarantine.
- **When Nome decides to open up with NSHC be in the loop about mandates?**
  - Yes we have several employees working with the city and we will be

	<p>working together. If the state is doing something on May 1<sup>st</sup>, NSHC will make our own decisions to reopening our facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diomedes request testing similar to Gambell and Savoonga for their hunters. They have three boats for 18 hunters.</li> <li>○ <b>Are all NSHC employees required to take the test?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When an employee is sick they cannot come into work and they will need to contact the nurse triage line to be tested and they will be at home isolating until test come back and will be there 14 days.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Discussion was held on future travel and services.</b></li> <li>○ <b>NSHC will host a call with Diomedes regarding construction season</b></li> <li>○ <b>Elizabeth Rexford is wondering if anyone is able to send information regarding any jurisdiction issues and who is enforcing mandates in regards to mandates Please email her. Her contact is below.</b>  <b>Elizabeth Rexford</b>  <b>Elizabeth.rexford@akleg.gov</b>  <b>(907) 465-3703</b></li> <li>○ <b>Teller would also like to invite Elizabeth Redford to attend their meeting about the road opening up between Nome and Teller.</b></li> </ul>
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