

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
April 28, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Kristen Timbers, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Charles Swanson, Koyuk
Carol Charles, NSHC	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Liz Johnson, VOS
Cora, City of Teller	Andrew Norris, Kawerak	Joanne Keyes, Wlaes
Karla Nayokpuk, City of Shishmaref	Robert Tokienna Jr., Wales	Howard Weyiouanna, City of SHH
Katie Hannon, CAMP	Barb Gray, Council	Dorothy Barr, NV of WMO
Glenn Steckmen, City of Nome	Jason Harrel, NSHC	Deborah, Wales
Amy Hollis, NSHC	Mary David, Kawerak	Blanche Garnie, City of Teller
Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomedea		

*Over 40 people attended 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) 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
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Peterson, Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Things continue to look generally good - State: 6 additional cases, 351 state, 228 recovered, 123 active cases - ANMC: no inpatients, 12 outpatients - Norton Sound Region: Ramping up testing, 365 tests, 51 test from yesterday, 292 negative, 22 pending, 1 positive that we have reported - Our goal is to test 10% of our population, anything over 2-3% is great and we are already above 3% - Dr. Zink reported that Juneau has been testing aggressively and is above 2% - If the rate of positive is less than 10% it's evident that they can start opening back up - This will be reassurance that if we have good statics we can start opening back up - Will talk about test numbers, numbers in negative cases, numbers in positive, where are percentage is at, to support the plans that NSHC has for reopening medical care to a certain degree in later May and in June

- This will also help the city about what they plan to do as well

Testing Procedure:

- There was a facebook post of an individual who got those noses swabbed here very appropriately and they posted it on facebook a video that Dr. Peterson watched. There was a response from a nurse from out of state saying “hey that supposed to go 4 inches down to the back of your throat cuz I do that and that’s how it’s supposed to be”.
- Dr. Peterson clarified stating that the ID Now analyzer, the one that NSHC has, is different. This test uses a special swab and the technique is just the nostril. It’s just the NARE that the medical term for nostril; it’s just a nostril swab. We do not go deep with the swab that we have for the ID Now. That would be extremely painful it’s a large swab. So this test analyzer is set up to do just a NARE swab which is much more comfortable for patients. The technique posted on the facebook page was very appropriate.
- There’s a smaller swab that’s used for the ANMC testing kit and the state test kit. Those are smaller Q-Tips with wire handles. Those do the deeper 4 inch swab. Swabbing is dependent on the type of swab and the type of analyzer. Just wanted to clarify that our staff is really becoming experts on this and have done a lot of testing percentage wise, more than a lot of regions. They’re very knowledgeable and doing a really good job and wanted to reassure everybody that there is no concern there.

NSHC plan to open back up for Medical Care:

- Doing the testing
- We are hopefully that are percentages look really good and that would support the ideal for opening up a little more
- Towards the end of May we would like to start some cancer screenings back up, Mammograms, colonoscopy, those types of higher risk cancer screens
- Along with that there are a few other procedures we want to be doing in Nome as well
- What we would like to do is show that our percentage stays low and is safe to have patients come in
- Would like to start with GI Endoscopy, Mammograms and a few selected procedures like that
- We would put a plan in place for all the villages so they are aware and will talk about it on this call later in May
- Basically patients would come in, get tested before the procedure, and they would get tested again after the procedure if it’s been more than 72 hours that have passed
- Patients would come to town, get tested, have the procedure, and we want them to go back to the village that same day or the next day
- We are hopeful is that by the end of May things are looking good, and the villages would be comfortable coming to town get tested, have the procedure and go back, and would probably not really even need to quarantine in the village but that would be up to the village, I am thinking with our recommendation that they are tested and can go right back if it’s 24 hours or less
- We will be looking at that

- After the official procedures are added back in we will probably add a few other things on the schedule as well and gradually open things like that
- Just want people to be thinking about that and as time passes here we will start seeing the state opening up and some changes from the state on quarantine and we will kind of wait to see what the state does and then the city will have decisions to make
- We will do it in conjunction with everybody and will do it safely now that we have testing
- Don't want to get in specific details since we do not have it laid out yet
- It will be happening and we will do it safely and we will present it to you and get everyone's by in

Airport testing:

- **Dr. Peterson:** We have the ability to test people now, and we have the ability to test at the airport, and we want to do that. We noticed that YK in Bethel is offering testing to their passengers that are coming off of Alaska Airlines flights. Don't believe that Bethel is restricting travel at all. Of course patients that come from the lower 48 are quarantining because that is a state mandate. They have added the volunteering testing at the airport. It is something we can look at. We will be talking to the city about that and it's a possibility.
- **Glenn Steckman:** We just want to make sure when we take the approach that anybody coming whether it's from the lower 48 or from the rest of Alaska, that they quarantine for two weeks in Nome if they are staying here, and if they are just passing through and waiting for their next flight on Bering Air or Pathfinder that they follow the guidelines of the village that they are traveling into. One community is asking those folks to quarantine here in Nome and then be able to go back to their community. We are here trying to work with everybody. The one big question is when can we stop quarantining in Nome? Right now we are looking at this 2 week. We are looking to go through May 14th. As Dr. Peterson knows we have no idea how the virus got here. We also know that we are kind of a wall to the tribal communities and we are very interested in hearing what they have to say on this.
- **Dr. Peterson:** As everyone heard the city is looking to continue their permitting processes until the middle of May. Personal feedback on this is that the state will open up things faster than we probably should in our region because we are remote and simply don't have the number of resources that Anchorage has. We want to be careful. I think in terms blocks like month at a time, Dr. Peterson and don't think NSHC would mind seeing the permitting continue to June 1st. I know it is a lot of work and the city is spending money and personal in order to do the permitting and do understand that it's a lot of work. If we could continue what we are doing and keep the virus at bay we would rather prefer that.
- **Dr. Peterson:** As long as the 14 day quarantine is in place, that is really the best way of making sure that people are not spreading virus around the community. When the quarantine is in place and we offer testing at the airport that would be an extra layer probably but certainly not required. However we don't want to have happen is to test someone at the airport, they test negative, and then think they don't need to quarantine. Need to make people aware that testing does not

	<p>replace quarantine. As long as there is quarantine in place and people are abiding by that, it's the best practice. We know that today that at some point is to remove the quarantine process and then there will be pressure to remove it here. Let's say there is a time where there is not a mandatory quarantine in place, if that's the case, having personal at the airport from Norton Sound or else wear check temps and ask questions about symptoms. I think that alone will be helpful at catching people who might be ill coming into Nome. If the answer is yes than we can direct them to get tested. Just having presents there and talking and communicating with them will be helpful. Something that would be more helpful than anything would be to continue quarantining as long as we can and do to a symptoms screener, and check temps. If the answers are all no they will still quarantine and we will be more at ease knowing they are at low risk. Now lets say the quarantine goes away and now we have people coming and we are still worried about people bringing the virus in. I still think checking the temp and asking symptoms is really important. Perhaps doing a test becomes more important when people are not required to do quarantine. What I see is that we could add offering the test at the airport now and require the 14 day quarantine or we could have a representative out there and make flyers letting people know that we have testing and to feel free to go to the hospital to get tested. A temperature and symptom screening are probably just as important as doing the test. All for the symptom screener and temperature check for as long as we can do it and offer testing to those who would want it. Will have to visit with the city.</p>
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will NSHC be sending personal to each village for testing or will the workers at the clinics be administering them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have health aides in all the villages and we have midlevel in almost all the villages. They will be administering the test. Unalakleet, White Mountain, Gambell, and Savoonga have received their test kits and should have started testing by now. All the villages are working on plans on how they will administer the test to those wanting to get a test. Health Aide's will be letting the community know when they are available. ○ Is the hospital doing any incentive to go in and get tested like berry buckets or something? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We will jot that down and consider that. It is a good ideal. ○ There will be a problem with flying in and out of Wales for same day travel with Bering Air since they do not have same day flying. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes they will need to go back the next day due to the schedule. ○ Recommendation was made to continue permitting process through June 1st. ○ Deanna Stang mentioned that we really need to have a 28 day period that we don't have cases, as recommended by State EPI and Dr. Zink. ○ This is cumbersome for those traveling in and out of the villages. Trying to get a permit signed, missing flights. Is there a way to streamline the permitting process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CTS Supervisor will remind staff to ensure they are doing a round trip permit.

- MAS: Not having a printer, I wonder if we reach out to Ted Stevens or work with Patient Housing at ANMC.
- **What are your thoughts about not having a travel for medical purposes?**
 - It gives us a record for each community. Whenever we get a medical permit it is pushed through immediately. Everyone that is medical gets approved. When people sign these documents they agree to what is put in the document, it gives us the enforcement.
- **As we look towards later in May, doing some elective procedure, can you see processes where you get all the permits for that individual, you line up the appointment and permit at once?**
 - It has been clunky but has been better in the last week and has seen a lot of improvement and things are starting to run smoother.
- **Since Amy already reviews the permit for patients if the city would consider having Amy as an approve signer for patient travel permits to get the process streamlined and then forward to the City? A Norton Sound signed travel?**
 - This will need to be discussed more offline.
- **On average, how many patients are we talking about per month, week, day, that are needing all these permits?**
 - Not a huge number. Today we have 0 arriving from Anchorage, and tomorrow there are 4 groups arriving. Did ask the hostel for a number for April on who is going through there. Not a huge number at this time. Amy will have those numbers soon.
 - At this point we have been limiting travel.
- **Is there interest for a working group to help put employees at ease?**
 - Some recommendations are to follow CDC guidelines, wear mask, less people at meetings.
 - If people are feeling anxiety, BHS is still open.
 - Mary David can reach out to the BS Leadership Team to see if there is interest and provide recommendations.
- **Sitnasuak was mentioned that they make gear for the military and not sure who should contact them but can see if they can make protective equipment for the region. Not sure if BSNC has any factories that could help also.**
- **Soon there is going to be roads from Nome to Teller, and Nome to Council. How will you know who are going out?**
 - Since the roads in and out of Nome or State highways there is no real enforcement.
 - Teller mentioned that if someone goes from Teller to Nome and they do not go into any building structures and lets so go to the store but has their supplies brought outside and do not go into AC they will be able to return home and not have to do 14 days of quarantine. Also requesting only one person goes into Nome and not the whole family.