

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
April 29, 2020**

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Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
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Carol Charles, NSHC	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Cora, City of Teller
Joanne Keyes, Wales	Robert Tokienna Jr, Wales	Howard Weyiouanna, City of Shishmaref
Katie Hannon, NSHC	Dorothy Barr, Native Village of White Mountain	Glenn Stechmen, City of Nome
Jason Harrell, NSHC	Toby, Golovin	Lori Hughes, NEC
Tiffany Martinson, NEC	Bertha Koweluk, BSWG	Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Shishmaref
Blanche Garnie, City of Teller		

*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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Observe a moment of silence for two people that have passed away in our region yesterday, that were not COVID-19 related. We are thinking of all the family and friends during this great sadness. <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 rean@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"> • Test updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alaska: the update for today is not available yet but the last 24 hour period there were 6 new cases, bringing the total to 351 cases, again we are by far the lowest state by 100 or more, and out of the 351 an additional 10 have recovered bring the total to 220 recovered and have a total of 131 active cases in the state. - ANMC: No change, has 12 outpatient, and 0 inpatient - Norton Sound Region: For us nothing has changed as in number of cases. Can say that our number of test has gone up and up as we have been planning. It is always hard to predict day to day on how many testing we will have done. 1 positive test that everyone is aware, 127 pending, we are sending to ANMC and it takes them a couple of days to get done, 464 test done to date, 336 negative,

91 since yesterday, our lab has really been busy, and a lot of those have come from Savoonga, Gambell, Unalakleet, and a lot from Nome also. What the daily Norton Sound situation report, those testing number are on the report each day, and watch it grow. 464 represent about 4.6% of our population. Our target is 10% and that's 1,000 tests.

- **We are probably already at the top of the state for testing.**
- **Tent:**
 - We are putting our final touches on the tent today
 - We are putting furniture and computers and there is heat and lights in there
 - Tomorrow it will be open 10am – 2pm
 - We expect that to expand as we go
 - Feel free to come and get tested
 - Starting tomorrow we would like to see a good turnout
 - You do not need to call ahead
 - We don't know how busy it will be
 - Come when you have a little time and if it is too congested you will have to come back
 - You can come and park and walk into the tent
 - The West end is where the drive through will happen
 - There will be signs up where to go
 - Be patient and have your ID on you and we will get you tested
- **New Norm for Norton Sound:**
 - Our incident in command and our managers are all now working on looking at the new normal for Norton Sound and our Region
 - We are aware that there will be a new normal for us now and we want to start educating about the new normal and what it means for our region
 - Will be talking about that each day when we visit
 - Can tell you that we don't know how long the virus will be around
 - We expect that it will be around forever now
 - We don't know when a vaccination will happen it could happen a year from now but we don't know how valuable that vaccination is going to be
 - So we know in the health corporation that we have a new normal we will be functioning under and we are just going to plan for the worst and hope for the best
 - So we did that with preparedness and surges of COVID-19
 - We prepared very well and have a pretty good outcome to this point
 - We are going to do this thing with our new normal
 - We are going to start running our corporation under this new normal
 - The new normal for us into the future is going to include 3 primary things. 1) Masks, masks are going to be a part of what we do now, and people are going to have masks on in our field clinic, in our clinics, and our hospital. 2) Telemedicine, we are going to be bringing to the region more and more. If we can communication and telemedicine with patient without having to be within 6 feet of them we know that it better for the future. Not all appointments will be telemedicine but some visits will be. Visits in the village, visits in Nome. Keep in mind that you can be seen anytime now for anything by telemedicine whether it's in the village or in Nome. 3) Testing, testing is going to be part of our future

	<p>as well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That is what is being developed by health corporations is testing plans - We are going to be developing our plan, ANTHC put together their recommendations on testing for facilities, and their kind of testing they recommend to keep your region safe - We are reviewing that now and will be coming up with some recommendations for our region - Testing is going to happen for a lot patients and health personal - Well come up with those recommendations and the requirements and will let you know about that over the next couple of weeks <p>Airport testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We talked yesterday, should Norton Sound have presence at the airport and be doing testing of people that are coming off Alaska Airlines? - Dr. Peterson personally thinks there should be some kind of presence there regardless of how long the permit process goes - Even if the permit process goes away sometime in June or later, I think testing at the airport is going to need be the new normal in our area - Will be working with the city on some recommendation
<p>Angie's update</p>	<p>Updates from yesterday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a request to form a work group with organizations. There are no limits on who can participate in this. Any organization, any employer who has employees either currently working or returning to work would be great candidates to participate in this work group. The purpose is to be able to provide the guidance, answer questions, maybe develop policies for our organizations as employees return to the work force or continue to work. Mary David did send out an email yesterday and her email is mdavid@kawerak.org. She suggest that the contact person for your organization be possible your Human Resource Manager or Director. She is putting together that work group and has not announced the first meeting yet but it is in the work. To participate send Mary David email. - The next update is related to the suggestion to have incentives for testing. We did go back and look into this and we were aware here at Norton Sound and do have to follow federal laws related to Medicaid so there are certain things we can incentives and there are things we cannot. There is a way for us to provide an incentive so we will implement a process for people who do get tested. We will have a very short survey that will be accessible many different ways. We plan to hold raffles than for mileage tickets that we can give away, we would also like to provide a month of the phone bill to be paid, hopefully some good incentives we can give away and you will see how to register for that incentive very soon from Norton Sound. Thank you for that idea. - The other update is related to billboards. Norton Sound has been working with Laurli Ivanoff to design a billboard that can be used in our communities to highlight the four prevention messages that we want to promote. We know that this is not going away and having something visible in our communities will remind us as well as our youth. The four messages include avoid public spaces, mask up, safely distance, and wash your hands. You will see that new logo on the top of our facebook page. Norton Sound and Kawerak are working with

community leadership to get these billboards put up in the community so that is coming. They will be here Tuesday. Thank you Laurli and Kawerak with your assistance on that.

- The other update is related to Medicaid travel. There was a question yesterday asking if anything has changed with the Medicaid travel process. There may have been some delays. We did look into it. We could not find any communication where Medicaid may be delaying approval of travel. What I do suggest and we will include this on our facebook page as well on our website that Jackie Crisci, who was a longevity employee of Norton Sound, now works for ANTHC in the positive of ANTHC liaison and is still based in Nome. Her office is located on the first floor of the hospital and she is an excellent resource to answer any questions you have about your travel or appointments with ANTHC or ANMC. Jackie's number is 443-3351 and she also has an email. All of this information will be on Norton Sounds facebook page and website and she is a great contact.
- **There were some other topics that we discussed the past few days on water and sewer and requested Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle to update us some of the progress related to those request.**
 - **MAS:** Last Thursday on this call a couple of participant recommended that we collect water and sewer stories to share with our law makers and highlight the need to address our unserved communities and I am really thankful that Norton Sound has the capability to create the video. Reba will be helping launch this effort and will put out facebook post and other notices to submit stories. Laurli Ivanoff is helping Norton Sound and if you need help with telling your story or think you might do better with being interviewed by someone, were thankful she can help.
 - **MAS:** Congress starts up again on Monday, well tentative since it is changing every day. Our goal is to get a video done that will help and form and drive law makers in DC to focus their attention and energy and resources on getting our unserved communities on a pathway to service. So for the video guidance I will let Reba talk how best it might be.
 - **Reba:** Starting sharing this and sent this out to BSSD folks and they said they shared with principals and possibly students as a potential classroom project. I think would be really helpful to get some young people involved and help create video. I will be sharing this on facebook today that I am looking for video submission, photos, and written testimony. Anyway that you want to share the message. You will take it; you can email those items to me at rean@nshcorp.org. But for the video guidance we are just asking for some smart phone videos and it would be really helpful if the video was shoot in a horizontal way or landscape way. That just makes it a little bit nicer to put together. The video should no longer than 3 minutes so it is easy enough to upload in the village and you can submit as many videos as you want. If you could upload they to google drive or drop box or any

	<p>free sharing service that would be really easy and you can just email that link to me. Some of the themes we were asked to consider photograph or video are things like hauling water, storing water, washing your hands in your handwashing basin, washing clothes, bathroom condition, housing condition, and a vision for your community. Those are all really powerful things that people outside the region may not always consider or know exist. So it would be really powerful images to share. We also have a list of interview questions to help get people behind the camera. That will be going out with a few questions and will be sharing online today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MAS: We can also set up a text and if you want to text us a video that you just created and uploading is difficult and I know high speed internet or the ability to save your video or upload it using 4k the highest resolution will be meaning full but texting it might be a good way to go too.
<p>ANMC Visitor restriction – Megan MacKiernan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ANMC has updated their visitor restriction - Limiting escorts to only absolutely essential escort - Those with visitors, they are allowing 1 adult companion with mothers who are in labor and delivery and that person needs to stay on site, they cannot leave and must stay with the patient - For pediatric patients they’re allowing one care giver with them but also they need to stay on site and can’t leave - ANMC is set up to doing a lot of telephone and tele video communication with families - You will see decreased escort and visitor travel and visitors in ANTHC, ANMC, as well as at Norton Sound - The only other exception to the visitor policies are end of life, the parent of a minor, a single support person for labor and delivery, and someone on the day of discharge for same day surgery <p>➤ If you find yourself in a difficult situation please call our patient advocate in Nome that’s Jeannie Kost at 907-443-4567 and in Anchorage that’s Jason Harrell at 907-434-2844. Both of those staff are employed at Norton Sound and can listen to you and advocate for you and understand that sometime they situation or condition may change and if you have a loved one that was medivac down Norton Sound will work with you and perhaps get you to Anchorage and put into some other type of housing arrangement in case a condition were to change. We know this can be a difficult time and as long as you have those contact numbers please reach out and talk with them and Norton Sound will consider everything on a case by case basis to try and support you.</p>
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a person is in Nome and wants to travel back to their village what is the process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Every person needs to follow their travel ban and requirements to enter their village. Also will need to complete travel permit with the City of Nome to depart and enter Nome. ▪ If a patient is traveling to and from Nome and it is just one day or have

- to spend the night they only need to complete one permit not two.
 - If you have a question about the travel permit you can call the city but the more information they have the better it is to process the application. I know each different village is going to require travelers to check with the village to make sure they can go back. Unalakleet, Elim, Teller, Savoonga, you need to have prior approval to go back to the village. The city does not require proof that you can go back to the village but it also does not hurt to attach that to the city travel permit.
 - Quarantine for 14 days is the best.
 - **A poster was recommended to have to post around their village about the video. If the poster says what you need, time line, and who to send it to.**
 - Reba is planning on creating it in a poster form and sending out to communities also.
 - **MAS:** For a deadline would May 8th work and that's a rough tending deadline. The reason being that we want to turn the video around as soon as possible because I think things will move once congress get going and I want us to be up front driving the conversation and not losing the window of opportunity.
 - If we talk more about possibly paying a person for someone to video if there are any money available that person should be pay and in control of that job.
 - **MAS:** I just threw that date out there as a soon as possible video submission deadline because it will take some time for the editing and bring them all together so if people prefer 8th or the 15th I think we want to be flexible.
 - **Where do the material get send to?**
 - Those should be submitted online but there are limited cell phone access so I am hoping to enlist students and school district but it should all be digital.
 - We have a lot of students that went to school that are doing nothing here in the community and they have the experience and they can talk to their members and it will be so much easier. Let are a lot of people that can't get jobs. Let's create one. Need to have a little more organization and need to know what it's for, purpose, and dates.
 - **MAS:** Thanks we will get working on public notice and Reba has reached out to the school district so we can start involving the school district and the technical capable is internet speed that might help video transmission. Young people are so good on phones and it would be empowering to have them interview not just them but their leaders or parents. There are lots of flexibility on how each community wants to create a message so we will send out some sample interview questions and help get things started and if there are others that might need help sharing a store or telling a store we are really thankful Laurli been able to joined our team and she really knows how to tell powerful stores. Feel free to reach out to us if you have any more questions. MAS phone number is 907-903-2147 and thankful that Reba and her team can do this and I think the more we can get the word out and working

- with our leaders and communities and the better we can do this. I think we will have the ability to drive this conversation.
- Our regional effort is always much stronger than one or two entities. They need to see what is going on.
 - **MAS:** This was an idea that came on this call and we are just getting to work and it is going to take many people working together and thankful for everyone's hustle.
- **Once someone gets tested, do they need to quarantine until the results get back?**
 - If you are sick and get tested you should call the clinic and make an appointment by calling 443-3333 and once tested you will sit in isolation until results are back. Same thing in the village. Except for the village it will be 48 hours-72 hours so you can quarantine at home until the results come in. If you are just getting the test and do not have symptoms and just want to get tested you will not need to quarantine after getting tested.
 - **Is there going to be a shortage with these tests?**
 - Dr. Peterson made a bold prediction that there will not be a shortage in our region.
 - **2-3 days ago Dr. Peterson mentioned that when the test kits come into Nome that we would be sending 10% out to each village?**
 - We would like to test up to 10% of the population in our region. So if a village has 500 people we would like to test 50 of those people which will be 10%. We are going to send enough test kits to test 10% of each village. Health Aides and midlevels are going to make sure we do 10% of testing in each community and send those into us. Now if additional people want to be tested and they use up their entire test kits we will send more to test more. Now if all people want to get tested in the village we would send enough for everyone in that village to get tested. People just need to show up for the testing and show that they want to have it done.
 - **Is there a test that already shows antibodies and is it available?**
 - Yes ANMC in Anchorage just got that testing unit. They are putting in place as we speak. Next week we will be able to order antibody testing. NSHC will be coming up with a plan 2-3 weeks from now that might include a lot of antibody testing for the region.
 - **For the gold miners that go into Nome are they local or do a lot come in from out of state?**
 - A lot from out of state and know the city is looking and planning for that. That kind of gets back to NSHC having a desire to have a presence at Alaska Airlines and screening individuals coming in and testing individuals coming in. If the city wants to require that everybody be tested coming into Nome that is something we could put in place and that is just a thought.
 - **Are they testing at the Anchorage Airport?**
 - Dr. Peterson can almost guarantee that Alaska Airlines in Anchorage will never be testing anybody that is leaving Anchorage to go

AGENDA ITEMS**DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION**

elsewhere because it is no longer their problem. We have to have our recommendation for our region and for people coming in. I dough Alaska Airlines will every do that. They might check temps or ask questions but I think we have to be the guardian of our region here.