

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
May 4, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Carol Charles, NSHC
Kristen Timbers, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Rachel Lee, OEH	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Roy Ashenfelter, Kawerak
Preston Rookok, Native Village Savoonga	Joanne Keyes, Native Village of Wales	Blanche Garnie, City of Teller
Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Charlie Brown, Golovin	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins
John Waghiyi, Savoonga	Dorothy Barr, Native Village of WMO	Ben, Savoonga
Sean Lee, NSHC	Daniel Harrelson, White Mountain	Katie Hannon, NSHC
Jessica Ivanoff, NSHC	Lori Hughes, Nome Eskimo Community	Jason Harrell, NSHC

\*Over 70 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"> <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: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
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Peterson, Medical Director	<p><b>Dr. Peterson gave updates on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alaska: 0 cases in the last 24 hours, 3-4 days looked pretty good, 368 cumulative cases, 262 recovered, 9 death, 97 active cases, hope it continues to drop down, we do expect to have continue cases in the state and don't expect that it would go to 0 and stay 0, we do know that the curve has stayed flattened and hope it stays like that. They are watching as the state reopens to make sure there are no surges, and if there is than they can back things down again and we do know that what we have been doing is effective and if we have to go back to that after reopening the state we can do that</li> <li>- ANMC: No changes, 12 outpatients, 0 inpatient</li> <li>- Norton Sound Region: 719 tests completing, know that is going up which is terrific, there may be around a dozen people that may have been tested twice or</li> </ul>

maybe 20, 676 negative, 42 pending at ANMC, 1 positive over a month ago, 1 recovered

- Doing well in our state, and doing well in our region and appreciate people getting in to get testing done
- We are going to slowly be reopening services in late May, early June
- We are going to be looking at bringing in some patients from the villages to do our facility for care on limited bases for cancer screening like colonoscopy and mammograms important procedures that need to happen so we will be proceeding with that
- Any patients that come into us for procedure care they will get tested, and we will be testing all patients that come in from the villages for their care
- We are also going to start looking at limited village trips with our providers going out to the villages but of course we will go through the right channels to get approval to go to each village
- We will have a schedule and present to each of the villages and providers will be tested before going to the villages, and we are looking down the road to do this in the next few weeks
- We are going to do regular testing at our outpatient facilities so you all know
- We will have some mandatory testing for some of our employees that work directly with patients
- Certainly will have patients that come in require to have testing
- Slowly reopening, ongoing testing, and this is sort of our new normal that I mentioned before and it includes mask, everyone will wear masks that is wandering around the hospital or that is in clinic, telemedicine is going to continue on so we limit face to face visits to only those that cannot be done through telemedicine, and ongoing testing
- That 719 represents about 7% of our region, I mentioned 10% is the goal and we are already at 7% so I am pretty confident that we will meet our 10% goal which is 1,000 test which is pretty cool

**Antibody Testing:**

- Antibody testing in our region in Dr. Peterson’s opinion is not going to be helpful right now
- The focus should be on the nasal swab testing for the virus, that should be our push, we are wanting to get 1,000 test and want to continue testing
- The important of testing with the nasal swab is to protect our region
- We want to catch a case early before it spreads to others
- The way to catch it is to test for it
- We are in a protection mood and want to protect from any outbreak that may come to our region and should be 99% of our focus right now
- Antibody testing we do have it and it’s a blood test and have it available through Norton Sound
- We would send it out to an outside lab or ANMC lab
- If there is someone in the villages or Nome that want to get their blood drawn for it, it is available to you
- How you get it if you want it? You make an appointment with your provider in the village clinic or here in Nome to sit down and have a discussion to see if it is

	<p>a good test for you to have or not, what the applications are, what it means to have the test and what the result means and if you should have it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why won't the antibody testing be helpful for our region right now? Antibody testing is mostly helpful for those places that have a lot of positive test because the accuracy of the antibody test really hinges on the virus being in your region. Like our 1 out of our 719 cases is 0.1% of our population. If a population has 1% you're doing super well. We are 10 times less than that</li> <li>- Antibody testing is less accurate and less helpful when you don't have a lot of virus in your region and can have false positives and you don't know what to do with them</li> <li>- If it comes back that you are positive for antibodies and we don't have the virus in our region the question is than are those really antibodies for COVID-19 virus or are they actually antibody's for other corona viruses because there are other corona viruses</li> <li>- They are helpful with states with a lot of cases</li> <li>- My education right now it's not going to be helpful in our region for keeping us health and for going back to work</li> <li>- Maybe in a month or two it will be helpful</li> </ul>
<p>Cleaning Supply Update – Sean Lee</p>	<p><b>Cleaning Supply Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have placed an order for a large amount of cleaning supplies for individual households</li> <li>- We have developed a form that is going to be filled out by all the communities so please be on the lookout for that</li> <li>- Emma Pate has a letter going out to the communities about cleaning supplies like disinfecting wipes, laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap, buckets and other items</li> <li>- Please work together to get estimated need for this, because the cleaning supplies are starting to come in and the goal is going to send out</li> <li>- If your community is short of something at the store just note that and compare it to what this list is and we will be sending out these supplies on as needed basis and these are for individual homes</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarantine/Isolation Cleaning Supplies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The cleaning supplies for the quarantine/isolation facilities have arrived last week</li> <li>- The remaining tubs of cleaning supplies got shipped out last week to all the villages and there are only 3 that were remaining</li> <li>- Diomedes will be getting their tub when the next freight flight goes out</li> <li>- As you guys, with the different facilities, need additional cleaning supplies or anything you can't get locally or order please let us know and we can do what we can to meet that need</li> <li>- We are still ordering other supplies other than cleaning supplies for the village community isolation facilities and for cots, material management is still trying to find a vendor that has the quantity we are trying to get</li> <li>- So the goal is to get 10 cots per village in case those are actually needed and hopefully we will find a vendor with the quantities so the order can get placed and processed</li> </ul>

<p>Survey – Megan MacKiernan</p>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- So far we have received 79 responses to our survey so far and they are coming in as we speak</li> <li>- Today’s winner is Bethany Horton from Nome and our prize today is a Norton Sound insulted mug</li> <li>- We will plan on doing drawing all this week</li> <li>- If you have taken the survey, whether you texted it in or done the survey on paper, you will be entered in to the drawing and we will leave those names in the drawing for the final drawing for the mileage ticket at the end</li> <li>- The number for the text survey is 833-321-0166 and text the word COVID to that number and the text message questions will come to you</li> <li>- The text survey is about 9 text messages that you will receive</li> <li>- If you have any questions just let us know</li> </ul>
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Where will the list and forms be going for cleaning supplies?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The letter went out to the people that we coordinate with in the villages. It went to the tribes, utilities, city contracts, sanitation and engineering department, environmental staff (IGAP staff with the tribes), tribal coordinators of each tribe. The mayor or tribal president should be aware of the letter and the form.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>If someone picks up a mask when they enter the hospital, will they be discarded or washed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cloth based masked are taken back before exiting the hospital and will be washed afterwards, and if the person is provided a procedure mask it can be disposed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Is the number of test the same availability or going to increase?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We are testing anyone who needs a test or who wants to be tested in Nome or the villages. We have the capacity. We have 2,000 available test kits as of this morning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Is the tent available?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yes Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm. We will be expanding test over time. Mid-levels and health aides have put together a plan to test and have begun testing in the villages. We have also sent test kits to Gambell and Savoonga before they went out to whaling camp.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Gambell and Savoonga both have headed out and each got a whale. Per Preston it was hard to social distance when out there but have passed the word around to all the hunters that if they start to feel sick to go get tested per Dr. Petersons recommendation.</b></li> <li>○ <b>If we get tested in the village and go into Nome for appointment, will we still need to get tested in Nome?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What we would like to do for every patient that comes into Nome for procedure is to test them here on arrival so that we have a fresh negative test before heading back to the village. We would like the test to be done 48 to 72 hours before returning to the village. Let’s say you had a test 2-3 days ago in the village and you head to Nome for a procedure, and we might have your test results back from ANMC we would still like to get you tested and have it the same across the board.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>If you go to ANMC for a procedure will you need to be tested there too?</b></li> </ul>

- Yes same thing there because it is a requirement for the state. If you were traveling to a village to ANMC the testing will be done there.
- **With hunting starting to pick up we really need to get the word out for them to get tested.**
  - Hunters who are going out and required to be with other folks to harvest and they consider getting testing for sure. Any activity that requires group activity should really be avoided or social distancing but a minimum at least get testing.
  - Reba does have an update on the radio communication. Our first program that Laurli put together will be going out this week. We shared it with the radio station today and should be hearing it this week. It's called Sikullautaq the English version of good ice and it's a really great program and really like how Laurli put it together so that will be going to all three regional radio station this week and we will be aiming to do that twice a week and having it aired daily on the three different radio stations so we can keep providing messages to our hunters and residents that way.
- **Can we make sure it is in Inupiaq, Saint Lawrence Island Yupik, and Yupik please? That would be helpful.**
  - The radio show is more than 5 minutes so not sure if we can translate to all three languages but we can work on getting short messages translated to PSA and things that we have been working on.
- **Wondering if the subsistence department at Kawerak could give us some thought, if so many of our activates involve families and this is going to be ongoing for months, if somebody can sit down and talk about seining, fishing, pilgrim fishing is a zoo, different families doing this together, berry picking, everything, maybe have Kawerak and Norton Sound sit down maybe do a special on this that will cover everything?**
  - Yes that sounds like a good ideal.
  - Norton Sound will reach out to Kawerak and elaborate on the first hand out that was developed. There was a group of people that worked on the first subsistence hand out and we will look at having meetings to develop it.
  - The recommendation was covered for social activities and what to do. Also maybe we can get it mailed.
  - The recommendation are pretty general and come summer time we can update it and make sure it applies to summer time activities too. We have been sharing it to all the village tribes and we will continue to share it. Will reach out to the group to see if they have any addition they would like to add for summer activities.
- **MAS: Was wondering as people get ready to fish in the coming months maybe can do a few fish specific calls, just reminders if just as people get ready and think about how they're going to set up camp or do their operation a call with providers will help to ask questions "Is this okay?" "Is that okay?" "Should we try to be doing this?" informal and the last time we met Roy suggested keeping the opportunity open for future dialog as the need arise.**

- Yes that sounds like a good ideal. We can possibly make an 11am call and have it as a focus.
- **Discussion was held about subsistence fishing in the villages and how important it is and how social distancing can be difficult during this time.**
- **Are the play grounds and basketball courts in the villages and Nome?**
  - It's good to be out door, and active. It is best for basketball to go alone and work on their skills by themselves. Limiting the numbers of players, try to wear masks but it is hard. Since passing the ball hand washing is good. Since there have not been any cases in the village. What you don't want to see is a group of 10 people playing ball, and kids all on the side hanging together. Again small group, hand hygiene, masks. If it's in the school the school can put rules up.
  - With school being closed all gyms are closed.
  - Getting the kids tested is another way to make sure there isn't any spread also.
- **Comment was made about testing and passengers coming into the region.**
- **NSEDC is going to have their fishing plants open; we need to see some type of requirement sent out about the virus. Has that been addressed with NSEDC?**
  - There is not a mandatory testing for anybody like that. But our region can say here are the rules for this harbor, and this is the rules for our region and if you pull up a boat in our harbor we can create rules. Fishing industries are creating procedures and regulations. It hard to have requirements on the ocean but individual villages can have bans and we have plans at Norton Sound if someone comes in to the harbor that is sick the emergency crew will go get who is sick and have everyone else stay at the dock so there are rules. If you have a village who may dock you need to be ready for that with a plan. In Nome we are worried and don't have an organized plan but there is plan's about this coming.
  - There was word that NSEDC will not have crew go into a community and that they will be anchoring off shore. They will all have been quarantine and tested in Nome. That is there plan.
  - Per NSSP plan they have stated that they are not going to be hiring people outside of Unalakleet and Nome for processing.
- **Have there been any new cases in the Norton Sound Region?**
  - No new cases.