

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 13, 2020**

Angie Gorn, CEO, NSHC	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, NSHC
Kelly Bogart, NSHC	Megan MacKiernan, NSHC	Cameron Piscoya, NSHC
Kristen Timbers, NSHC	Carol Charles, NSHC	Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle
Jason Harrell, NSHC	Amy Hollis, NSHC	Dan Harrelson, City of White Mountain
Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomede	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Preston Rookok, Native Village of Savoonga
City of Savoonga	Dorothy Barr, Native Village of White Mountain	Lori Hughes, Nome Eskimo Community
Tiffany Martinson, Nome Eskimo Community	Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Toby, Golovin
Sean, Wales		

*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. Mark Peterson, NSHC Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave medical staff update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alaska: 0 cases in last 24 hours, 383 total cases, 338 recovered, 10 deaths, 35 active cases - ANMC: 13 outpatient, 0 inpatient - NSHC: no cases in region, about 1,200 testing of individuals, vast majority are negative
Updates	<p>Angie's update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We did receive the billboards and they are here in Nome - We have written letters to community leadership and would like you to approve NSHC sending the billboard before we sent them out - We have two billboards for the larger villages, one for the smaller villages, and five for Nome - We are going to put one sign up, that is two panels, here at our hospital so people can see it when driving on the bypass road, and we have three other locations that are identified for the community of Nome and will be working with the City of Nome to get approval for that, but we would like one of those signs at the airport so anyone coming to Nome will see that prevention message which at the bottom of that sign it encourages people to get tested - We want to continue to push that message through the summer here - The design was put together by Laureli Ivanoff and a project supported by NSHC and Kawerak - We will have our employees in the villages put them up and they will be sturdy so they do not fall over

Deanna Stang with Public Health update:

- In response to COVID-19 we have seen fewer children coming in to get vaccinated
- It is still very important that we have our infant and children to go in and get vaccinated
- You can call NSHC or Public Health to get your child scheduled an appointment
- We want to avoid an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease and keep our children protected with vaccination
- Preliminary data was reviewed from April 2019 to April 2020 and have seen a decrease of 50% in vaccination
- Please make sure your kids are up to date for their vaccination

Dr. Peterson update on Pediatric Clinic:

- We are concerned about certain medical care falling behind during this pandemic and one of those items is childhood immunization and do not want those to fall behind
- In all the villages well child exams and immunizations can happen and if you have any children that are behind please call your clinic to schedule an appointment
- In Nome we are doing the same and what we have done is put a pediatric clinic/patient clinic over at the health aide training building away from the hospital
- We feel that sometimes people are a little bit nervous to come to the hospital during this pandemic but the hospital is still a safe place to come
- Over at the health aide building we will be having pediatric well child visits and immunization happening
- The pediatric departments keeps a list of those who are behind
- A lot of kids will be getting calls to get come in and get immunizations done at the health aide training building
- There will be exams done by telemedicine and some exams will be done in the building and of course immunizations will be done on site
- This is something that we are doing to get immunization rates up and should be contacted about that
- You or someone that you know that needs to get caught up on immunization can call 907-443-3333(for here in Nome) to get scheduled
- We are putting messages out that we are opening back up and CDC is letting us slowly opening up
- People should not be fearful to come and be seen for immunizations

Angie's update on COVID-19 Card:

- NSHC is in the process of designing a COVID testing card
- Ideally this would be a card that you can keep in your wallet and have the dates you were tested on it with additional information
- We are hopeful that will be produced soon and if you were tested you would have those dates at all time
- We are designing the card so it is something that you can take away from your

testing

- You can use it to show to your employer or have for your own comfort
- It's have the date you were tested, provider sign off, on the other side you can see your results on the MyHealth patient portal platform
- If you don't have an account with the MyHealth Patient Portal you just call our registration desk at 907-443-4542 and once you get an account set up online you are able to log in and check out whether your test came back negative or positive
- As soon as NSHC or ANMC has the test results available you can see it on the MyHealth patient portal without having to call your provider

Glen's City of Nome port operation update:

- PSA is getting put out on the City's port operation that starts May 31st
- Nome wants to know what you all want to do as your tribal organization

Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle update on travel with Dr. Zink and Dr. Eastman:

- Got back last night
- Dr. Eastman's background:
 - Dr. Eastman runs a tactical technician assistant strike team for the homeland security
 - The strike team is empowered to eliminate any bureaucratic road block and help state local tribal jurisdiction response to pandemic
 - He was encourage by his higher ups to understand what communities face where's there no water and sewer and what the challenge are in responding to the pandemic without running water
- Wanted to make sure everyone was safe before landing in Stebbins
- Did not enter any building but did walk outside
- I told them if they needed to use the bathroom to go to the beach
- We are doing a no contact, limited time
- So thankful Mayor Morris walked them through town and explained the water shortage there in Stebbins and the challenges of not having water and sewer
- This was the team's first time seeing anything like this and how our communities are
- Dr. Eastman asked what a honey bucket was and was able to share photos and how honey bucket waste is managed
- Did a fly through and fly over Shishmaref and thankful for Mayor Nayokpuk shared what they should be looking out for and the shortage of bins for honey bucket waste
- Hopeful that there a better understanding at the homeland security perspective of what our challenges are in Western Alaska
- Understand that Dr. Eastman already triggered some follow up and will be in contact with our delegation about how to better coordinator our federal agencies for our unserved communities
- Will make sure to work with Angie that before Dr. Eastman leaves a letter that we give him a letter that will be helpful and let him know that there is a water leak issue in Unalakleet and they system needs to be replaced
- Shared with him our relationship with the state of Alaska on how it's

	<p>challenging that could be with respect to partnership with our tribes or lack there of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared with Dr. Eastman that there are 8 communities without law enforcement - It was a basic introduction to our region but feel hopeful and confident that there will be some coordinated federal follow up on challenges whether its Abbott ID machines, or other follow up
<p>Survey – Megan MacKiernan, Compliance Director</p>	<p>Survey update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had a winner yesterday and Reba has contacted that person - We are at 275 survey responses as of today - Our winner today is Lance Sampson from Golovin
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On the contact tracing, did you guys do it? How many generations you go out? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close contact is someone who lives in the same household, someone who might be caring for the person sick, someone who has been within 6 feet of someone who was sick for more than 10 minutes. What public health does is monitor the patient for 14 days with consent and anyone who isn't part of the close contact, would be to follow general guidelines; washing hands, cloth mask, etc.. We are not notifying people who were in contact with someone who were close contact with someone sick. They only go one generation from the COVID-19 person. ○ Are travel restrictions relaxed for our region with new mandate 18 and city council meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Travel by air has not really changed. ▪ We are considered off road system or marine highway. ▪ They are allowing Critical Personal Needs or conduct Essential Service/Critical Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Critical Personal Needs” is defined as those needs that are critical to meeting a person’s individual or family needs. Those needs include buying, selling, or delivering groceries and home goods; obtaining fuel for vehicles or residential needs; transporting family members for out-of-home care, essential health needs, or for purposes of child custody exchanges; receiving essential health care; providing essential health care to a family member; obtaining other important goods; and engaging in subsistence activities. ▪ If a village has something more restricted than the state, they could, such as quarantine requirements. The Governor is supporting its off road system communities on their own travel mandates. ○ With the roads open into Nome there are some questions about some people wanting to go and subsistence in other communities or go to town and do some shopping. Is that allowed now under mandate 18? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes you can come in to purchase groceries. That was never restricted on the previous mandate 12 that mandate 18 has superseded per the state anyhow. ○ The quarantine requirements that some of our communities have initiated for example if folks go to Nome for the day and go back to their village are

they required to go into quarantine?

- That is up to the individual villages. The villages can set their stricter quarantines if they so choose and those have to be followed. The State is going to support the villages if they put stricter requirements in place. The state doesn't change anything for our region.
- The governor's office is supporting the village's decisions.
- The City Manager spoke to the governor's office today on travel and travel to off road communities as for Nome. The governor's office is basically supporting what the local communities are doing in the off road system. Nome has never had a problem with the villages that are connected by the roads but will honor whatever the villages would like to do. As we loosen up the travel restrictions Nome doesn't have a problem with residents of the village system and not quarantine but would like to hear what the village leadership would like to do to loosening up the travel restrictions so that if someone came in from one of the villages they wouldn't have to quarantine in the city of Nome the quarantine would still be enforced for the rest of Alaska who come in through Anchorage into the city.
- **OA: how soon does the city need an answer about the port opening on May 31st?**
 - The city council has a meeting on May 18th. The council was also concerned the impact on those communities that use us as a hub system and we want to make sure that they are acting in the best interest not only for the citizens of Nome but of everybody else that has ties to Nome.
- **Can all the cities have a letter requesting the information for the port in the region?**
 - Glen will work with Reba on getting something together.
 - Dr. Peterson's advice to the villages is that if they would like to revisit and loosen things he can work with them. It is up to each village if they are interested in that and want to it in a proper fashion we can dialog with them and can talk with them. It's not a requirement but if they would like to open up their places more, it is a fairly safe time now with Nome not having any cases in our region. If a village wants to continue to have tight restrictions they support that. It is up to the villages to make that call and we cannot make that call for them but can assist if needed.
- **Teller will send an updated travel ban to the City that they updated on the 12th.**
- **Teller loosen things up on their travel bans just because the state did a pretty great job with this pandemic and Nome did a really great job and we feel like we can loosen up because of all the work done in Nome. Their travel restrictions can be updated if necessary but did loosen up quite a bit.**
- **Headed to Anchorage for medical, when they get back will they need to quarantine for two weeks?**
 - Currently if that were to happen here in the next few days, the requirement would be to quarantine for 14 days here in Nome.

- City of Nome is working with Dr. Peterson and NSHC to start doing testing. When you land you would get a test and then after 7 days you would get another test and then would be free from quarantine. The council is looking at the recommendation of Norton Sound and we are hoping that a decision would be made by the council on how they want to move forward after the 18th. Anchorage still has, even though the number of cases have dropped, still is an area where the virus could still be lurking around and obviously everybody wants to do what is appropriate to keep the residences of the city of Nome save and obviously the villages if all of the travel restrictions by the villages are lifted to come into Nome. So we start having more interaction with people.
- The short answer is there will likely be some quarantine for you. Right as this very minute it is 14 days and may change soon within a couple of weeks to 7 days of quarantine and if it is further out in the summer that you are going to have medical care it may be possible that you may have 0 days of quarantine we just don't know. Yes there will be some quarantine you will have to do.
- During the state provider call yesterday Deanna asked if they could provide an update on the state of Alaska stance on providing testing at airports like Anchorage or Fairbanks for individual that make it out to outline communities and right now they are still having high level discussion on how they would be able to implement the plan and what the final product will be but know that they are wanting to be prioritizing for the fire season. For example if we need to have first responders come in to a fire they're plan is to have testing available for them at that time and they got a couple of contractors in Anchorage and Fairbanks for roll out that plan so more details to come as far as the state opening up testing at airports.

○ **If someone wants to travel in for shopping and wants to do a day shift or stay a night do they need to do travel permit?**

- Right now the permit is still in place for those flying and that is right now only to keep track of who is coming into the city because we do not know if someone is coming into the city. This may change with Bering Air obviously, we want to talk to them, and if they are traveling in through Bering Air we probably not require permits to fly in from the local villages if they are just coming to Nome. If they are flying to go through Nome down to Anchorage or wherever we would probably keep that in place for that just as a way to do some if necessary contract tracing. Obviously have changed dramatically because you can drive into Nome from Teller. We are less concern about people coming in from the villages and coming into Nome because there have been no transmission from Nome to the villages and the villages are getting their testing and no positives from the villages. Glen feels comfortable in saying lets have intra-region travel with no problem and that would be my recommendation to the council.

○ **Glen were you able to find out from Alaska Airlines the travel schedule?**

- No have not had any contact with Alaska Air per his request.
- **Do we still have passengers flying in from Anchorage and outside of Anchorage to Nome?**
 - Yes we still and the travelers flying into Nome has risen. We are approaching 100-125 so a week flying in. With a slightly lower number flying out. Some of that is coming from the miners coming back into Nome for the summer season and they are very agreeable and working with the city about self-quarantine. We have had a number of students return home because of the summer. We have had subsistence folks coming back up to live in Nome and to be with their family. We have seen medical professionals coming in to Nome to work with the hospital and of course construction workers coming into town also that are building the new wellness center and the new court so we are seeing them come in to work.
- **The people that are flying in from Anchorage and beyond Anchorage are they still quarantine?**
 - There are two groups.
 - Out of state folks are required to quarantine for 2 weeks.
 - Quarantining has loosened up a bit because some people are coming into their camps or something like that. Yes you should stay at your camp, you shouldn't have interaction with anybody, but you can go outside because it is healthy. It's not just staying in your camp building.
 - Under the governor's guidelines emergency workers or essential works, which include miners, and the miners are coming in and quarantining wherever they are. They come in with a plan. The other folks that work constructions are considered essential employees or critical employees. They are working through their companies that they represent. They are going from their house, strictly to their work place, wearing masks and staying away from other employees, and going back home and having their food deliver to them. We consider that acceptable. They are not going into the stores, restaurant, bars etc. That is acceptable to keep the economy moving along and to get buildings built or repaired that need to be addressed. That been our approach.
 - With the people that are coming back to live in the city or the out skirts of the city were saying if you need to get out, you need to get into your car, go directly out to the country, and walk or do whatever, but you should not have any contact with anybody while you exercise or get out for your mental health. We have loosened that up because we recognize that it's beautiful out and this is the time of year people get their health restored when coming from a dark winter. We just don't want people mingling with other citizens of Nome.
 - You want to be away from public areas when you are getting air and be

away from others.

- **Would Dr. Peterson be available to call in tomorrow evening at 7:30 pm for the Native Village of Koyuk regular monthly meeting?**
 - Yes he will. Email him the call number at mgpeterson@nshcorp.org.
- **What are the enforcements if there is nobody listening to what the village wants pertaining to COVID-19?**
 - That has to take place between the village leadership and the state police or the VPSO.
 - Gina Appolloni VPSO Director just wanted to let you know that the VPSO do not enforce the mandates. They can educate the community or individual and the VPSO would be able to email investigation@alaska.gov as with the community members if they see someone breaking the mandate. You can submit what you want.
 - Education is key. The state and local law enforcement is going to educate the public with any suspect violation that occurs.
- **How costly would it be for rapid testing? Teller has a hard time for quarantine and they have the road open, no water and sewer, and no showers, and having problems with the watering point? If we could have rapid testing when they arrive to Teller that would eliminate quarantine.**
 - If Teller had an analyzer and could do testing on the individuals that go into the village that would be reassuring to a certain degree. It would be reassuring they probably do not have the virus at the time but a single test is not a quarantine. NSHC is working on trying to get more analyzers and our goal over time would be to get an analyzer in every village and teach someone who can hopefully be there and stay there and run the analyzer. That is a goal and will take time. We are asking for more through ANTHC and the state and will see what happens there and would like to get them out to the village. Without that, everything that everyone is doing in the region is helpful.
- **What is the turnaround for testing?**
 - Two different analyzers. If you can stop at the Nome hospital we can get you an answer same day. If you are in the village the swabs there have to be sent to Anchorage and upon arrival it will take ANMC 72 hours so in the villages it will be a few days. We are getting an analyzer to Unalakleet and Savoonga since they both have dental and dental is higher risk for COVID.
- **In cases such as Wales you have a smaller community, we have had essential workers have been tested in the community and have taken care of that population, so that leaves about 140 that hasn't been tested, since you have the availability to get them tested can we mandate them to get tested so we can eliminate the who population?**
 - Right now there is a clinic in Wales and we have test kits there and have been testing people in the community and have tested over 10% of Wales. If the village of Wales was motivated to get tested more we would support testing as many as you want to test. This is available testing for all community members. We can always keep up. Wales can test as many as they want and if they want to organize and get the

community excited and want them to get tested the health aide can let us know how many more tests they need we can get the supplies out.

- **Discussion was held on a program that communities have in their villages for their emergency response plan with Kawerak.**
- **Is eye care still going to Golovin next week?**
 - Eye care is headed to Diomedes next week but will look at when they will go to Golovin.
- **Discussion was held on water and sewer and hauling the water.**
- **Can the City of Nome let patients directly to Nome if they lift the ban in Savoonga if they lifted that part of their ban?**
 - Yes but the city will still require a permit if going through Nome. Each person that travels needs to have their own form.
- **If Savoonga has a patient coming to Nome with NSHC work with them?**
 - Yes would have them work with Amy Hollis who is the quarantine lead and would work with the Savoonga about quarantining once getting back to Savoonga.
- **Can children carry the virus longer than two weeks without sharing virus?**
 - Children can get sick; they tend not to get as sick as older folks. Do not have to have concern that children carry the virus longer than 14 days.
- **If an asymptomatic patient goes to the village and quarantines can we expect for the virus to be gone?**
 - 14 days is felt to be long enough to catch 99.9% everybody that has a virus. 14 days plenty long and should really catch everyone and should be no worries there.
- **If we wanted to have our own supply of test kits would test kits be available for purchase for travelers or for people to have?**
 - The ID Now analyzer that we have in Nome and that we will put in Unalakleet and Gambell. Those analyzers have to be used in a clinic or hospital setting and be done by trained staff. There is not one for home use. There are ones that you can buy and send back but you can get it done faster with the clinic. There are antibody testing you can get done that will tell you if you have had the virus at one point but won't tell you if you have it right now.
- **Would the personal have to come from the clinic?**
 - It would have to be employees of Norton Sound.
- **From communities having death we should have plans for community members to come by but not come in the home.**
 - With the reopening of Alaska the churches can have up to 50 people at church. If there was a funeral service the opening up is happening so you can have that in your village but have to limit the number with social distancing and masks.
 - As of May 11th you can have churches services with up to 50 people or 50% capacity whichever is bigger.
 - If something could be held outside that would be better.