

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
May 15, 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
Joleen Oleson, Kawerak	Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomedea
Amy Hollis, NSHC	Tracy McGarry, Kawerak	Jason Harrell, NSHC
Charlie Brown, Golovin	Robert Keith, Native Village of Elim	John Waghiyi, Savoonga
Ellen, Wales	Deanna Stang, State Public Health	Joanne Keyes, Native Village of Wales
Brian, Savoonga	Toby, Golovin	Barb Gray, Council
Blanche Garnie, City of Teller		

\*Over 40 people attended today's meeting.

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION</b>
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) Updates</li> <li>4) Survey</li> <li>5) 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. Mark Peterson, NSHC Medical Director	<p><b>Dr. Peterson gave medical staff update on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Alaska:</b> 4 cases from yesterday, 38 active cases</li> <li>- We are going to continue to see a smoldering of cases and hopefully not a big spike</li> <li>- <b>Deanna gave an update for Alaska:</b> in the last 24 hour reporting period we have had 1 new case, up to 388 cases, 343 recovered, increase in hospitalization and now at total or cumulative of 41 hospitalization, currently 8 individual who have COVID-19 or a suspect that are admitted in the hospital</li> <li>- <b>ANMC:</b> 2 new patient in the hospital with COVID-19, one of the first inpatient in the state, haven't had one since then until now</li> <li>- We expected this</li> <li>- <b>NSHC:</b> no additional positives, close to 1,300 individual test, over 1,700 test, tested about 12% in region,</li> <li>- Tent is open Monday – Friday 8am – 5 pm now, next weekend will have limited weekend hours in the afternoon and will update next week</li> <li>- Dental patients who are coming in for dental will have to have a test</li> <li>- Continue doing what you are doing: Social distance, washing hands, masks, being careful, being cautious, people should be able to have fun over the summer, but also be careful and cautious</li> <li>- Hopefully the state will continue to test aggressively, and we are going to continue to test aggressively and watch for any new cases</li> </ul>

Updates

**NSHC update:**

- NSHC will continue to reach out to community leadership to make sure we have written approval before sending patients back on Bering Air
- Bering Air is still requiring, in writing, to make sure that they are following through with whatever the wishes are for the communities
- Norton Sound will continue to do that

**Note:**

- **Next week we plan to have this meeting Monday through Thursday and take Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and of course May 25<sup>th</sup> for the holiday that way we can give people a four day weekend. We will start back up on Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>.**
- **We will have to play it by ear, and if things calm down we might move toward a less meeting call and will give everyone enough notice and post that**
- **We do plan to continue them even if it takes a year or whatever amount of time for the situation**

**Village travel ban updates:**

- **Unalakleet**
  - Had a meeting yesterday with the tri-organizations
  - Based off the meeting, were following the State of Alaska health mandate 18 for intra-state travel for communities off the road system
  - They continue to prohibit travel in except for as necessary for critical personal needs and essential services, critical infrastructure
  - Inter region travelers must quarantine for 14 days and only applies to person traveling and not the whole household in region
  - If the traveler comes in from out of region the who household has to quarantine for 14 days
  - There's people going in the village to pick up freight or items that they purchased, There is a place to pick up but are not allowed to enter the village
  - Next meeting may be a month away unless things change
- **Savoonga**
  - The three entities will be meeting to review the travel ban on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month
  - Standing still until the 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Dr. Peterson will be calling into the Savoonga meeting to answer questions if needed
- **Diomede**
  - Still waiting to hear back from pathfinder to discuss what the requirements are going to be
  - Diomede does not have anything new
  - With the travel permits being lifted on Monday, they are aware and want to hold strong on their travel requirements and continue to 14 day quarantine for people going into Diomede

- For the people flying in from Anchorage that they do a 14 day quarantine before they take the helicopter flight
- Pretty much nothing new until we hear back from Pathfinder and once we do we send information back to NSHC
- Mentioned since they have not made any changes yet the City of Diomedes will meet to make amendment, temporary amendment, until they have to strengthened the travel ban back up
- Patients traveling back in still need to do a 14 day quarantine in from Anchorage
- Still have not discussed with the city yet how long
- We do want all Anchorage passengers or out of state and need to come to Diomedes they need to do the COVID test and continue to do the permit with pathfinder and CC Opik with the information
- Still won't have passengers flights from Wales and do not know where they are flying from
- Waiting to hear from Pathfinder on whether they are going to be taking any boxes from locals in Nome and is strictly up to the pilot and their safety
- All passengers are still encourage to wear masks from Nome to Diomedes

- **Golovin**

- If you travel from a place that has any positives COVID-19 cases you will need to quarantine in Golovin
- Inter-regional travel is acceptable without a 14 day quarantine as long as there are no cases
- Did include Nome as a travel restriction with the 14 day quarantine when first case was here and if need be they will put it back in place if we start to have cases again

- **Teller**

- On Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, the City of Teller, Mary's Igloo Tribe, Mary's Igloo Native Corporation, Teller Native Corporation, and Teller Traditional Council will have a joint meeting between the 5 organizations
- We will have an update than
- We kind of want to relax in our community right now, kind of don't really want to guest when the second wave will be and wonder if everyone will be so relaxed that it hits us so hard
- Maybe until mid-July we can relax and maybe do what Nome is doing for in region

- **Wales**

- The tri-meeting will happen tomorrow night at 7:30 pm
- Only essential travel
- 14 day quarantine

- **Koyuk**

- Wanted to thank Dr. Peterson for calling in to last night's meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do have a continuation today and got through almost half way through the agenda</li> <li>• The only thing we relaxed so far as the IRA council is the rules set in place for the Native Store</li> <li>• Previously they had a limit of 6 people in the store at one time, one person per household in the store at one time, no children in the store</li> <li>• Switched back to normal unless they start getting cases within the region than they'll tighten it back up again</li> <li>• Everything is back to normal and they only thing they do have is that children under the high school age be accompanied by someone at least in high school or higher</li> <li>• Hopefully they can get the tri-meeting to revisit the travel restrictions quarantine guidelines and get it done within the next week</li> </ul> <p><b>MAS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Just joined the Alaska Native Health Board call to share updates on the visit and other things that tribal health can work on to keep medical travelers safe going into Anchorage</li> <li>- One issue that Tribal Health will help work on is creating our own wing at the airport, maybe the B wing, or I think we really need segment flights that are coming in from the lower 48 with flights that are in state between our hub and rural communities to reduce contact opportunities between labor's coming up from the lower 48 for the oil and fish communities with our medical travelers coming into Anchorage</li> <li>- Feel that there is a sense in the air that there were no people wearing mask, think people are becoming fearless, and think they don't know of our own sensitives and vulnerability in this state</li> <li>- Will continue to have to be careful</li> <li>- Wondering if we should develop some guidance for traveling through Anchorage International Airport just to keep safe, keep hand sanitizer with you, make sure you have a mask, make sure ANMC minivan is ready to pick you up</li> <li>- I think that is something we can help make, smooth over so many people in our country are opening up without fear for those vulnerable</li> <li>- Thankful that our region is taking the approach that it has</li> </ul>
<p>Survey – Megan MacKiernan, Compliance Director</p>	<p><b>Survey update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 332 survey responses</li> <li>- Winner is Irvin Barnes of Nome</li> </ul>
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Question for Diomedes: People traveling in region no longer have to quarantine in Nome, only if they are coming from Anchorage or outside communities?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will find out more once they get information from Pathfinder and hold a city meeting. They will let Amy know.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Recommendation was made that NSEDC and fish and Game should have a meeting with the fisherman in regarding to commercial fishing.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will make sure it happens next week. There has been asked to have a special meeting just related to fishing. There's the commercial side of it but there is also general subsistence, families going out, we reference</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

pilgrim river, seining for reds, the volume that gets together to participate in that. We wanted to have one meeting that focuses on that. We will get with the right people and try to coordinate something that folks can call into and thank you for that reminder.

- **Young people with Kawasaki syndrome having an adverse impact on the young people. I wondering how well we are versed on the issues?**
  - Dr. P: Kawasaki disease has been around for a long time and is an inflammatory disorder. It's quiet rare but does happen. The children who develop this inflammatory disorder related to COVID-19 have COVID-19. They have to get COVID-19 and have it and after they have it there is a very small chance they can develop this inflammatory disease. It's more of a concern in those states that are having 10,000+ cases of COVID-19 where some children are getting it. In our state we have had over 300 cases, not sure how many are children, but not very many of them. Those children who have developed COVID-19 it would be a very small number that would be at risk. The medical staff is aware of that and we do share that and have gotten the CDC update about that and we are on the lookout for it. As these alerts come in Medical Staff reads them, shares them, and become prepared, and think about them. It would be unusual for us to get a case like that in our region now because case numbers are low. It is something that is out there that we need to be watchful.
- **Deanna Stang will forward fisheries employee agreement, operation plan, safety plan, and checklist that our sources have created in partnership with some of the fishing industries across the state.**
- **What soaps or cleaning products should we not mix with Clorox?**
  - Avoid mixing any chemicals. Use one at a time per manufactures instructions.
  - MAS: Usually opens window. It is always good to have good ventilation.
- Are patient travelers able to bring liquid and spray hand sanitizers onto the airplane?
  - There is guidance on the TSA website. Encourages patients to keep them to 3 oz or less.
  - Would be really good for our hospital travelers as well. Maybe Health Aides can post something up.
  - We can add that to our travel education that we are going to put together.
  - Another suggestion is using the package wipes when traveling.
- **Comment was made and was thanking the crew that provided services. Very grateful for this conference.**
- **The two new cases are they travel related?**
  - It was not listed where Dr. Peterson could see.
  - Deanna: There was one reported case yesterday and it has not been reported. The DHSS press release should be coming out later this afternoon and they'll indicate where the community is and give some other demographic like the age range. They have not been recently

publishing on the DHSS press release whether or not it is community related or travel related. Also wanted to make a clarification that yesterday someone may have asked about the cases, about 4 new cases. Those were actually 3 in Anchorage and 1 in Tok and none in Juneau. Those cases were reported May 14<sup>th</sup>.

○ **Comment was made that hospitals have been financial hit due to COVID-19 and appreciate NSHC approach and also appreciate these daily calls.**

- Angie: NSHC is extremely blessed. We were not hit as hard as some of the other tribal health organizations or hospitals. Not only in our state but everywhere and again we are fortunate that finances and the fiscal situation was good at Norton Sound. For the month of April we will see a loss. May, might look a little better as we open up. Just thankful we did not have to furlough or layoff or make really tough employee discussions. All of our employees continue to receive a paycheck. We were even able to allow folks that were still working their normal schedule, while others were taking time away to help promote social distancing, the folks that were here every day were able to accrual time that they could use at another time this summer as things stabilize.

Again we are opening very slowly. We are still encouraging patients, if they are scared to come in the facility that we know our facility is safe. We are cleaning, were taking extreme precaution with our employees and are moving to mandatory testing corporate wide for direct patient care staff on Monday. For those who are still able to stay at home and connect with your provider through telemedicine at your computer that would be suggested and recommended. If you are at the age group of 65 years of age or older or immunocompromised meaning you have some underlying health condition we want you to take extra precaution and that hunkering down and staying home is still a very important thing to do. Norton Sound continues to reach out to you since staying home is easier for you.

○ **Is there an extension date for the video submissions for sewer and water stories?**

- The extension was through today but will still except stories through the weekend. Can submit through Sunday and will like to start putting it together next week. Original due a week ago but extended until today and will still except things through the weekend.