

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 19, 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
Amy Hollis, NSHC	Jolene, Unalakleet	Jason Harrell, NSHC
Katie Hannon, CAMP	Jolene Oleson, Kawerak	Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk
Dan Harrelson, City of White Mountain	Roy Ashenfelter, Kawerak	Dorothy Barr, Native Village of White Mountain
Joanne Keyes, Wales	Ellen Richards, Wales	Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Shish
Preston Rookok, Native Village of Savoonga	Native Village of Savoonga	Michelle Ningalook Golovin
Mary David, Kawerak	Barb Gray, Native Village of Council	Deanna Stang, State Public Health
Blanche Garnie-Okboak, 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prayer 2) Medical Staff Briefing 3) Updates 4) 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: 3 new cases over the 24 hour period on Monday, 2 are in Anchorage and the other one on the road system, 399 total, 44 cases are active, 345 recovered, 10 deaths, early this morning 9 people were hospitalized in the hospital - ANMC: 1 inpatient, 18 total outpatient - NSHC: 1,435 people have been tested, 1,834 tests have been conducted, 1,652 test returned negative, 178 pending (most at ANMC), 1 positive test (the one and only case thus far), 1 person has recovered and there are no active cases in the region - Continue to do a good job of testing - A few cases in the fisheries industries, and they are in appropriate quarantine and testing, and most of them are asymptomatic
Updates	<p>NSHC Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our testing tent is open Monday – Friday 8am to 5 pm and will have a few hours on the weekend - Staff will be set up at the Nome Airport outside in a tent or small shed - Reminder that everyone and anyone can get tested - If you work with the public, health care worker, or working with people in the community or at the city office - Certainly welcome to get tested every week <p>Billing update:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No patient will be sent a bill or be paid out of pocket - If for some reason you do receive a bill, please let us know via Jeannie Kost, Patient Advocate, 907-443-4567 or Cameron Piscoya, Compliance Officer at 907-443-3360 <p>Travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State: requires everyone that is traveling out of state, to self-quarantine for 14 days - The City of Nome: those that are coming within Alaska to Nome, require a 14 – day quarantine, we are able to reduce it to 7-day quarantine, upon entry testing then quarantine day 1-7 and test again on day 8
<p>Survey</p>	<p>Survey results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 408 people completed survey - Rank for testing experience is a 8.7 out of 10 - Would you recommend to friends and family is 9.2 out of 10 - Did not pull a name yesterday so we pulled two names today - Winners are: Paula Woods of Nome and Pierce Ongtawasruk of White Mountain
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there was to be essential workers coming into Alaska from out of state, is there a way that the essential workers can quarantine in Anchorage before coming to Nome? Wonder if it would be best if they quarantine in Anchorage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: There are exceptions for essential workers. That definition for essential workers is a little loose. I think some people take advantage of that a bit. NSHC has our Health Care workers quarantine. We would want any essential worker to do the same. If they want make an exception, they have to ask for an exception from the State of Alaska. ○ Assuming they are quarantining in Anchorage, there needs to be some type of verification that they did their 14 day quarantine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: Somebody comes up from the lower 48, if they spend 14 days in the state of Alaska and say they spent it in Anchorage. They would have had to quarantine there. Do we know if they quarantine? No. Do we have proof? No. But we know they have probably been in the state for 14 days if they tell us they have and hopefully they are not lying. But remember the City of Nome still has a requirement that those traveling within the state to Nome have to quarantine for 14 days or choose to reduce to 7 days with testing. So if someone has been in Anchorage we will offer them the 7 day quarantine with the testing which we will get them testing when they come in. So there is still a layer of quarantine that happens in Nome for now when they come into Nome. Again this is so we can catch anyone that is asymptomatic and positive. ○ If they are setting up at the airport in Nome will NSHC be spread too thin? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: We are making it a priority and the staff that we have in the tent at the hospital will be pretty much the same staff that goes out to Alaska Airlines. So that hour that they are out at the airport the tent will be closed for that hour and we will put up a sign for that hour. We'll make it a priority.

- **Comment was made that It wouldn't be of value to have somebody fly up from Anchorage; assume they are going to quarantine in Anchorage for 14 days. Just come up to Nome do the quarantine or do the quarantine and test that's it. That way the person that is here is tested and/or gets quarantine. So we are not trying to put layers that someone could over skip and say they did and spend some time in Anchorage. It doesn't matter to us they either does the quarantine or does shower quarantine and gets tested.**
 - Dr. P: Keep this in mind. People that are coming of Alaska Airlines into Nome, why not get a test? Unless you were just tested in Anchorage within the last 24-48 hours, why not get a test? It doesn't hurt anything. It's a little Q-Tip in both nostrils so why not do that. Why not do that. It's extremely helpful. We are going to encourage that and it's not punitive, it's informative. Get tested. Were right there and couldn't make it more convenient for people. It's a piece of mind for the person and the community as well.
- **On the village situation. What would be the best way to get the announcement out by radio, facebook, either one? That way people in Nome that receive a billing will know to turn it in or not pay it?**
 - Angie: We will get a facebook post out there and maybe something in the paper as well to stay mindful that testing is free and also the information about it in case you get a bill to bring it to the attention of Norton Sound and to not pay it.
- **Let's say they pay it and then find out they didn't have to. Maybe a reimbursement process would be in line to think about.**
 - Angie: As far as catching the payment. We'll defiantly be able to catch the payment on this end for if for some reason somebody pays when they should have.
- **Employees in Nome like at AC or Hanson's, would it be helpful to call the business managers and let them know testing is free and let their employees know?**
 - Angie: We have done some target outreach to specific population in additional to essential workers. We can follow up with some of those groups.
- **The hospital is starting to open up services, do you know if ANMC is doing the same in Anchorage as well?**
 - Dr. P: They are as well. They are opening up to elective surgeries, and some of their basic care; they are opening up as well. They are also starting to offer their specialty field trips out to the tribal health organizations. They are requesting for them to come out and have orthopedic clinic or ENT clinic so they are starting to ask those things. We are going to try and do those things through telemedicine for a while. We will eventually get those back up Nome and Norton Sound. It's a gradual opening up and it all depends on travel bans. If you have anything that you need to get done in Anchorage you can get it done now.
- **For going into Anchorage for a procedure. Was told that prior to our initial appointment prior to the procedure, we need a test 2 days prior. Can we**

test in Nome on a Friday, and our appointment be on Monday?

- Dr. P: The requirement is within 48 hours of being seen at ANMC. If you can get that test in Nome in 48 hours or less, there is no reason to not do it. If it going to end up being 72 hours or 96 hours, they might want something within 48 hours. We are going to open up the tent on the week. It will be a rapid test so results should be up within 24 hours.
- **What are the plans for the fisherman that drive vessel's up to our region and to try and reach them for testing?**
 - MAS: Lucas Stott over at the Port of Nome is the point person on communicating with fishing vessels and Deanna Stang with Public Health might be involved.
 - Dr. P: All the fishing boats are required to have a plan and have to show evidence that they screened their people that are working on the boat. If quarantine needs to happen they need to show proof that quarantine happened. They need to have a plan in place in case anybody gets sick. They're not allowed to come ashore and walk into a community. They are advised on how to contact health care. They are supposed to stay on their boat and only the person that is ill can travel by ambulance to the health care hospital. There is a real approach to that.
 - DS: Mandate 17 is out and provides guidance on the fishing industry. If you do not have a plan that has been submitted by your organization. They just released appendix 3 yesterday that also provides more guidance for fisherman that are operating from shore or an open skiff or where the crew is not living on board a vessel. Have been in contact with Charlie Lean at NSEDC and it sounds like he is going to be providing more information at a upcoming Port Commission meeting this Thursday so I know that NSEDC is defiantly looking at the material the state has provided as guidance. Just kind of a general plan: let's say a fisherman is coming in from out of Alaska they are required to quarantine for 14 days and they also need to get a test done within 48 hours of arrival to their destination in their community. For example let's say someone was coming up to fish from Washington and they were coming up to Nome they need to quarantine for 14 days and need to get a test 48 hours before arriving into Nome and then in the appendix they offer some guidance in there about what the definition are for self-quarantine vs isolation, they have an isolation plan if someone gets sick on a boat. They have some recommendations in there for screening personal or the staff member who are working on that fishing boat. It's a 12 page document that provides some really great guidance on the fishing industry. Again there are very specific fishing plans that have been put in place.
- **Discussion and suggestions were made about fishing and fisherman quarantining.**
- **Suggestion was made to have a roaming vehicle for essential works that work at the store or other places for them to go and get tested if they can't make it to the hospital.**

- **With asymptomatic testing there's enough antibodies to have a positive test but you think it would take how many days to get antibody to take a test after somebody has traveled if we were trying to cut the quarantine time down? 2-3 days?**
 - Dr. P: When we talk about the nasal swab test we are talking about collecting the virus not the antibodies. So the virus has to build up in the system to be positive. Now some people have the disease without symptoms. It has nothing to do with how much virus they have or when they got it. There are two types of people. One that gets the virus and gets really sick and one that gets the virus and doesn't get sick. It's going to show up about 4-5 days in their exposure. The answer to your questions is on average you're catching it at 5 days, you should really catch it at 10 days, and boy you should really really catch it at 14 days. Once you get exposed it will take a couple of days before you test positive. **Testing does not replace quarantine.**
- **Did anyone find out anything about the Bethel person testing positive and then the second test being negative?**
 - Dr. P: we did research that. They tested this patient at the airport and that swab was sent to ANMC and was run on their unit and it tested positive. The person went out to the village. They then sent out a response team to the village and they brought an Abbott ID Now rapid test analyzer with them and tested multiple people in the village and they tested this individual again and they tested negative. The first test was positive, and the second one was negative. What does that mean? Well it means one of two things. Either they were just at the end of their illness. They were shedding virus for it to turn positive and they were no longer shedding virus and it turned negative. That is the most likely possibility. The other possibility is that the first test was positive and the second one was falsely negative. Maybe it was done in the field and things were a little sloppy and they couldn't get a good test because it was not in the lab and maybe things weren't set up right. They are treating it as a positive. They are isolating, tracing contact, putting them in quarantine, and doing the works. We talked to the medical director there in YK about it. They were happy to share that.
- **Wondering about the number of villages does not currently have quarantine requirements?**
 - AH: based on the information every village is doing some level of quarantine. They do vary by location and in region and out of region travel but everyone is doing some sort of quarantine.
 - AH: When the leaders have written documents of the updated changes please email them to Amy at ahollis@nshcorp.org.
- **Wondering if the villages posting somewhere their travel bans? Know that they have a website through Kawerak and was wondering if they are being posted and is a one stop shop that they can go to your website?**
 - **RL: Kawerak has been updating the websites under the COVID page which has every community restriction there. Kawerak.org/covid-19-response on the left hand side under**

- emergency response plan is all the travel bans.
- **OA: pathfinder is currently upholding all their safety measures that they are currently doing for Diomedes with passengers. They are also going to be discussing the new travel requirements for Diomedes. Once they hear back from them they can update Amy Hollis. Pathfinder wants to continue doing the travel permit for passengers. So NSHC patients and providers will have to complete the permit and COVID test.**
 - **Koyuk gave an update on their water system situation.**