

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 21, 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	Jason Harrel, NSHC	Blanche Garie-Okboak, City of Teller
Katie Hannon, CAMP	Rhonda Burnett, NSHC	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak
Cherri McConnell, Kawerak	Cora A, City of Teller	Carolyn O, City of Teller
Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Dan Harrelson, City of White Mountain	Howard Weyiouanna, City of Shishmaref
Dorothy Barr, Native Village of White Mountain	Deanna Stang, State Public Health	Barb Gray, Native Village of Council

*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 (1 Northwest Arctic Borough, 1 Anchorage, 1 Bristol Bay and Lake & Peninsula Boroughs) and 2 non-resident cases, which is not included in the state count, 402 total cases in the state, 352 recovered, no new deaths for a total of 10 deaths, 40 active cases in the state - ANMC: 1 inpatient, 1 person with suspected with COVID-19, 19 outpatient - NSHC: 2,075 test done, 1,579 unique patients, 1,860 negative, 1 positive in early April, 214 pending - Testing tent is open Monday – Friday 8am-5pm - Weekend hours will get posted next week - Testing tent will be open Monday May 25th (Holiday) 1pm – 5pm - If you are sick with symptoms call our Primary Care Clinic to get seen - We will be starting airport testing this week and will get you updated next week - Maintenance is putting up a tent at the airport starting today - Also remodeling a van to use as a testing unit also - We will be offering volunteering testing for people that are there - We know testing at the airport is going to be a big part of what we do going forward as things open up a little bit more - It will be important to test catch people and test them at the airport - We are working hard getting an efficient airport testing routine - Not an easy thing for a hospital to do and not use to moving our medical care outside of our 4 walls but we know the importance of it

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The swabs testing that we are doing for virus for our region is to test to be doing to be looking for active cases, well find active cases by doing the testing that we are doing - Antibody testing is not to look for active disease - Antibody looks for the possibility that someone may have had the disease in the past - Our roll and purpose right now is it find active cases, isolate those, so they won't spread them to others - Antibody testing right now does not have any significant purpose for us, but is available - People can make an appointment at the clinic or hospital - Antibody testing does not diagnose active disease and know that there is misunderstanding about that - We are doing the right testing by doing what we are doing but do want all those have symptoms to make sure they come in and get tested because it is good to get tested - We will be encouraging the people coming off of the jet to get tested and swab testing is the way to go for our region right now
<p>Updates & Reminders</p>	<p>NSHC Reminder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will have no call tomorrow which is Friday May 22nd - We will have no call Monday, Memorial Day, which is May 25th - Tuesday May 26th we will have the call and we are going to focus on a update related to the COVID-19 supplies, cleaning supplies, other items that were purchased in bulk and will be distributed to the communities - Our team that has been working hard on that is ready to share an update related to where that's at - On Wednesday, May 27th, we have scheduled the fishery discussion - We do think that will be a rather lengthy discussion so we are going to limit the talk to just the fishery discussion - We invited NSEDC to Wednesday's discussion and we are also reaching out to Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the fishery talk as well <p>How NSHC can help with families having to quarantine when a household member returns home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several of the villages have built in to their travel mandate that the entire household needs to quarantine even if a few members in the household have traveled outside the region - We understand that household can be large in our region - If only two household members travel and the household has 8 members maybe the remaining 6 have essential jobs and are unable to stay home for 14 days - Here are some ideals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The travelers, if only part of the household has traveled while passing through Nome, please reach out to the quarantine lead who is Amy Hollis, 907-434-0654 • Even if that household did not travel for medical travel, please reach out to NSHC, we are still here to assist in any way that we can • You may be able to stay in Nome to lessen the burden of the remaining

	<p>household on the quarantine restrictions in your community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The travelers can go back home to the village and if it works for the whole household to quarantine, you can of course carry out that quarantine for 14 days • If you work for an employer that is also is following what your community has put in place you can check with your employer to see if working from home is an option or if there is any other flexibility through your employer • If you work for NSHC and you are in that situation reach out to your supervisor to discuss the situation and see if there are options • We do know that several of the communities have quarantine quarters set up so that is another option • Either the member who traveled can reach out to the tribe or city to see if they could stay in the quarantine lodging • In some of the communities NSHC has housing and if you are one of our employees you may be able to also stay in employee housing in that village • We are seeing a common thread here and know that it could be complicated <p>- If organizations are needing to purchase cleaning supplies or hand sanitizer, or things like that and are having a hard time locating that please contact Reba at rlean@nshcorp.org and Megan can work with her on getting information to who needs sources that are reliable for purchasing cleaning supplies, mask, thermometers or whatever is needed.</p>
<p>Survey</p>	<p>Megan announced the following winner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have received 459 survey's to date - Our winner today is Edward Stang, Nome - We will go ahead and draw winners for Friday and Monday and we will announce 3 winners on Tuesday
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a patient comes back from Anchorage, and goes back to the village, and quarantine is recommended, would the recommendation of testing two days and quarantine for 7 days? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: Right now I would imagine that the requirement is 14 days of quarantine in the village. That is the best option and it's the one that we would recommend. If the individuals villages would like an alternative that is less than 14 days for in region travel between Nome and the villages, if they would like a quarantine length that is less than 14 days, what we are doing in Nome is a reasonable option, it's 7 days of quarantine with testing on the first day, testing on the 7th day, and if both test come back negative you are free to come out of quarantine. In the village the 7th day testing, because it has to go all the way to Anchorage, it is going to be a few days before the results are back so that 7th day will become 9-11 days. But that would be a reasonable thing to stay in quarantine and doing testing on day 1, testing on day ,

and soon as results are back and negative can come out of quarantine. That would be reasonable. Each village would have to vote to approve that.

- **Patient that are going to Nome and back to the village they would not be required to quarantine is that correct?**
 - Dr. P: The city does not require in region travel to quarantine but if someone goes back to the village they must follow what the village quarantine rules are.
- **Really believe that quarantine and isolation units should be in all the villages.**
 - AG: that is the final goal. We are aware that 9 villages have their MOA in place and the remaining villages are just fine tuning those final details. We will continue working with those communities. It is not something that communities can come up with overnight. The housing that is being proposed needed to be looked at carefully and the supplies needed to be organized. We are very close to firming out the remaining 6 communities. But the goal is for spaces to be available for every community in our region.
- **The mandate is going to be changed to 50 – 100 people for gathering is that correct? By the governor?**
 - DS: As far as today the governor is still recommending to have gatherings limits for businesses and organizations at 50% capacity and starting tomorrow they are rolling out phase 3 and 4 of the Reopen Alaska Responsibility Plan. All businesses can open all houses of worship, libraries, museums, recreational activities and sports activities can open at 100% capacity. It is very crucial that families stay 6 feet or more away from non-family members, continue to wash your hands frequently, wipe down surfaces frequently, wear a cloth face covering when in a public setting if you are in close contact with others outside of your household, stay home if you are sick and get tested for COVID if you have symptoms and just be mindful and respectful to other community members most vulnerable to the virus. There are going to be other acceptations and restrictions and closure in place. They are still going to keep the 14 day quarantine for interstate and international travel to Alaska and that is going to be re-evaluated by June 2nd and they are reviewing that weekly. All senior centers, prisons, and institutions will continue to have restricted access. The state is going to continue to work with large industries to protect their work force and communities. They are also recommending that communities may still keep travel restrictions in place. So they just want individuals to check in with local communities. Health mandate 15 which is the elective medical and dental mandate will still be in place. Health mandate 17 for commercial fishing will still be in place and health mandate intrastate will still remain in effect. The state will be putting out more details and some more guidance in response to phase 3 and 4 later today and hopefully that will specifically address large gatherings.
- **Are they keeping statics on the results on antibody testing anywhere here in**

Alaska?

- DS: Not that we are aware of. The state public health recommendation for antibody testing right now is that we don't have a high enough prevalence of COVID-19 in Alaska for the antibody test to be reliable. It's really only reliable if we have 5% of our population who are infected or 5% positivity rate. We're much lower than that in Alaska and averaging about 1-1.7%. They are some hospital who are choosing to do an antibody test and my understanding its really only people who have actually tested positive for COVID-19 with the swab. The State of Alaska is asking any hospital or health care providers that are doing antibody testing to send in those reports to the state lab. But do not believe they are publishing the data. On a national level the CDC doing studies and collecting information. Right now the antibody test is really not a good way for us to detect active or current disease and some of the challenge with the antibody test is that it is not specific enough. There are four other common coronaviruses that circulate annually and the antibody testing we have right now may accidently pick up one of those unless we have a high prevalence of the disease in our community.

○ **Would pull tabs be considered as business and also bingo?**

- DS: Ya. There was recommendation that bingo can open up underneath mandate 16 and there were some specific recommendations and best practices to keep the customers safe if participating in bingo.
- A couple of communities requested the mandate 16 to be forwarded to them.
- Golovin: referring to the Golovin and pull tabs, they have to have hand sanitizer available for the workers and after every session the cards have to be cleaned and kind of keep your distance.

○ **On mandate 16 does it state anything about temperature check? Also what information is in there about people going to gatherings that do not feel good?**

- DS: There are recommendations in the mandate for bingo and social gathering that you are doing say a prescreening of those guess seeking those services. It's not mandatory to get your temperature but recommended if at all possible to do that. It is also recommended that you put up signs outside of the business for any people coming into the business that have any signs or symptoms. There are great flyers on the State website and CDC website.

○ **Recommendation for NSHC to send sanitation to public places.**

○ **Is the state going to skip phase 3 and go to phase 4 on Friday?**

- DS: They are rolling out phase 3 and phase 4 at the same time.

○ **When is NSEDC going to do their fishery report?**

- AG: That will be on Wednesday May 27th.

○ **What is the different between the total number of cases done and the total number of unique patients done here in the region?**

- Dr. P: We test a lot of people at NSHC. We test some people more than once. Like our employees were going to test every 2 week. But we

want to know how many individual unique patients we tested. How many people have been tested once. That's called unique patient. When you look at the situation report and it says unique patient tested that's a total number of individual unique one time only individuals that we tested in the region. The cumulative number is all the unique individuals that have been tested once and the people that have been tested more than once.

- **An update of Koyuk's water and sewer was given.**
- **What could the village do if someone is going around and coughing?**
 - Dr. P: I would encourage the person to get tested. If they get tested and are negative you can relax a bit. They should be encouraged to wear a mask and to do all the things they are supposed to do wear a mask, socially distance. If that is somebody with symptoms they should be tested. I would encourage them in a real positive way to go to the clinic and get tested and can maybe let the health aides know and maybe they can contact them and get the message to them. Testing and mask and distancing are important.
- **Are the patients that travel out of region and on 14 day quarantine requiring taking another test sometime during their quarantine?**
 - Dr. P: Testing is a way to find out if someone is carrying the virus. However 14 day of quarantine is still the best way from spreading the virus around others. It's still a really good way of doing that. Let's say you pick up the virus in Anchorage and you make it to Teller. Now for 14 days you are going to quarantine in Teller. Let's say you have the virus. In 14 days you're not going to have the virus any longer. It's going to almost certainly be out of your system at the end of 14 days. If you do the right things and go to Teller and quarantine correctly and now it's 14 days later, even if you carry the virus it should be out of your system in that period of time and should be fine to go about your business. A good number of people who get the virus are going to have symptoms. If you get symptoms you're going to do the right thing and go to the clinic and get tested. 14 days of quarantine without testing is still a fine thing to do and is a great way to not spread the virus around if you do have it. If a village wanted to have people do testing on day let's say 10 because by about day 14 we should have the results back now they will have 14 days of quarantine plus a test towards the end of that, that would be fine too. 14 days of quarantine alone is fine and don't have to add testing to that. If you are going to reduce quarantine down to like 7 days or whatever days you should do testing at the end of that because that is not enough quarantine alone to know if someone is going to get rid of the virus in their system. You really need to do testing if it's a lower number of days of quarantine.