

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
June 02, 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

\*Over 40 participants attended today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
Introduction to Meeting – Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO	<p>Reminder to keep phone's muted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Blessing</li> <li>2) Medical Staff Briefing</li> <li>3) Changes with Governors mandate for travel</li> <li>4) 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>• Always go to the State of Alaska DHSS website for the most update statistics</li> <li>• <b>Alaska:</b> 20 new cases in the state of Alaska, no specific locations, 487 is total of cumulative cases, 371 recovered, 106 active cases</li> <li>• Providence Extended Care had a big outbreak, they have 400 resident staff there and as of yesterday they had 17 staff that were infected, they are testing everybody and probably got a lot more positives from there</li> <li>• <b>ANMC:</b> 0 inpatients 28 outpatients, 7 are employees</li> <li>• <b>NSHC:</b> We have tested 4,800 test and tested 2,200 people and have had 3 positives and they are all recovered and got the word from Public Health that they are recovered</li> <li>• 20 cases in one day is not a real huge number, and is still a reasonable number and is more than what we have been used too</li> </ul> <p><b>Testing and Analyzer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have three analyzers that we use in Nome at all times to keep up with testing in Nome</li> <li>- There is one in Unalakleet that will be up and running this week; That will start out as dental patients, emergency type patients, symptomatic patients, and then gradually go into doing more routine cases there in Unalakleet; The technician who runs it has to be doing cases for a while and have to send their negative cases to the state lab to confirm everything is looking good before we open it up to testing everybody so we ease into it at every location</li> <li>- Savoonga will be starting soon and the two midlevel's out there will be the ones trained in running the test there; There are dental patients there that need to be</li> </ul>

	<p>seen and there will be emergency type patients that need to be seen and then we will open up and add some more people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is one ready for Teller and the lab manager found someone to train there and it shouldn't be too long before they are doing it there</li> <li>- Those are all the units we have</li> <li>- The state, IHS, or ANMC or combination of both got a handful of analyzers, about 25 to the state and Dr. Peterson asked if we can get a couple of those</li> <li>- We are going to possible get a couple at a time and we have 15 villages so it may take some time but we are ahead of the curve because there are a lot of state's that don't even have an analyzers</li> </ul>
<p>Updates</p>	<p><b>Angie gave the following update about travel into Alaska:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beginning at 12am on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> travelers who fly into the state of Alaska will need proof of a negative results on a qualified COVID-19 test and that can be obtained before arriving into Alaska or passengers can still choose to still do the 14 day quarantine</li> <li>- Again that has to be a COVID-19 test and cannot be an antibody or serology test</li> <li>- There is more information posted and Norton Sound can try and share this information as well so our region is informed about that</li> <li>o <b>Does it indicate how many hours prior to travel to Alaska that the test needs to be completed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not seeing it in the notice.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Dr. Peterson gave an update on voucher for second test when travel from out of state:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Zink mentioned yesterday during one of their meetings that what they are going to do is a voucher system for the second test</li> <li>- They will run the first test and they will give people a voucher that can be used at any lab that they are heading to</li> <li>- If they are going for example from Anchorage to Ketchikan they can bring that voucher to the Ketchikan hospital lab and will honor that voucher and they can get the test done for free</li> <li>- They are really pushing that second test</li> <li>- The state is not dropping their 14 day quarantine, they still have it in place and but they are going to have a test upon entry and still want you to quarantine until the 2nd test comes back negative either 7 to 14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Deanna Stang with Public Health gave the following update for the travel into Alaska:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They would like to have people traveling into Alaska have the test done within 72 hours of arriving into Alaska</li> <li>- They would like to have documentation of testing being done</li> <li>- They should be putting out more detail guidance and think they were waiting for some feedback from Alaskan across the state to see what challenges or concerns they might have with this process</li> <li>- They are going to have an online form that you download</li> <li>- When you arrive in one of the seven airports you are going to be greeted by a local contractor and you'll provide proof of your test and if you don't have proof you will be directed to a testing sight in the airport and they would like for you to either get your test or do a 14 day quarantine</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They don't know how long it might take so for example in Anchorage if there's a lot of passengers that arrive on a jet and for whatever reason wasn't able to get the test done or have documentation that they have a negative test they are asking individuals to stand in line and get their test and stay in quarantine until you get a negative test result</li> <li>- I believe they are also going to encourage individuals to get a second test if possible around day seven</li> <li>- They should have some more details up and I know some good questions have come up for example "what would you do if you had an infant and if you didn't want to get that infant tested and what that recommendation would be."</li> <li>- You will have two options 1) show proof of a test or get a test at the airport or 2) do a 14 day questions</li> </ul> <p><b>Megan gave an update on Thermometers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Did receive word from IHS yesterday that they were able to get a significant number of temporal thermometers we think (They would be the ones to use on the forehead)</li> <li>- They will be providing us one for every clinic and every tribal office in the region</li> <li>- We don't have a delivery date and have not seen one of the units but IHS did confirm this morning</li> </ul> <p><b>Angie gave an update on the billboards installation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Norton Sound and Kawerak worked together on a prevention message that we put onto basically 4 panel and when it is installed looks like a billboard and can also be put onto a side of a building</li> <li>- For our larger villages we ordered 2 signs and smaller villages we ordered 1 sign and we have several that we have installed or will be installing in Nome</li> <li>- This is a friendly reminder that we have been told that they have been up and if you live in a community that the sign(s) have not been installed yet and if we don't hear back from leadership in each community we always have the option on putting the sign up at the clinic</li> <li>- The maintenance worker in each community is willing to put the sign up they have all the material to do so</li> <li>- We do not want to put up unless we hear back from you</li> <li>- Koyuk has theirs posted up at the store</li> <li>- Wales has theirs up at the washeteria</li> <li>- Nome we have one as soon as you exit the airport by the testing tent, and one is posted by TSR, one at the hospital, and another one on the bypass road, and a few other signs that will be posted in Nome</li> <li>- NEC and Solomon would like some also</li> <li>- Elim has one that is posted at the city building</li> </ul>
Survey	<p><b>Megan MacKiernan gave the following survey update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lilly White is the winner for today</li> </ul>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>If a traveler from our region travel's outside of Alaska, takes a vacation, now coming home to the region will either have to have a test before they fly into the airport in Anchorage or have a test there and it also sounds like they couldn't fly into Nome right away they would have to wait a few days</b></li> </ul>

**if that's how long it takes to get results back and then they will travel to Nome and perhaps test again on day 7 does that make sense?**

- DS: Yes that is our understanding the information that we have received is that the state strongly encouraging if at all possible to get the test before you travel into Alaska so you won't have any other barriers if you have a connection flight from Anchorage into Nome. We understand that testing capacity and capability is probably isn't as good as it is in Alaska but it is defiantly encouraging anyone that is traveling out of state and back into Alaska to look into that before they make their travel plans. They have also been working closely with all of the airlines to get information out to passengers or customers that are booking ticket so they will be redirected to what you need to do to follow Alaska's recommendation. It will be up to the City of Nome if they will still require whatever their out of state requirement for out of state travelers.
- **You mention that the testing at the airport in Anchorage is going to go to the state lab and their testing result turnaround is 24-48 hours. It wasn't mentioned that if travelers traveling through Anchorage going to other locations would be required to sit in Anchorage until that 48 hours test is done. I didn't get a sense that they would have to wait. I got the sense that if they had the swab done they can travel on to their next location and find out what their result is a couple of days later. Do you have any knowledge on how that is going to run?**
  - DS: our assumption is that you are correct that if you didn't get your test before you made it into Anchorage then they want you to quarantine until you have your negative results.
- **Did you mention that each community or village will receive an analyzer?**
  - Dr. P: It would be the ideal situation to eventually have an analyzer in every village. Barrow is the same, Bethel is the same, Kotzebue is the same, and that is a lot of villages and we are all competing but we are going to bat and going to ask and try and get more. We would like to get there.
- **Can you list the communities that are going to have rapid test?**
  - Dr. P: Yes it is a requirement for dental patients get screen with a rapid test before they are seen before a dentist or a dental health aide because procedures that dentist due are high risk the drills, the water, everything sprays, and could people at risk if that patient is positive with COVID-19. The three places that we have dental workers are Nome, Unalakleet, and Savoonga. Those are the first three places that will have testing. Unalakleet will start sometime this week, and Savoonga will be soon after. An analyzer is going to go to Teller. Unalakleet, Savoonga, and Teller. Gambell will need to have one eventually and will be next in line. Again wanted to remind everybody that every village does have testing and the testing we do in the village those swabs are very effective, sensitive, go to ANMC, and it just takes a little longer to get the results but you can still get the test done.
- **Can Norton Sound explain to the village communities that Norton Sound**

**only has a certain amount of analyzers that way they know why their community does not have one?**

- Dr. P: We have a meeting with a number of villages after this call today and well express that. You are correct we cannot get a rapid analyzer to every village it's not going to happen at this point but we are working towards that. The labs and swabs that we have out in the village communities already can help a lot. If a village wants to reduce their quarantine from 14 days to less it is still possible to do it with the swabs that go to ANMC it just takes a little bit longer to get results so the person will still need to stay in quarantine until the results are back. We will make sure to bring that up and make it known.

○ **What about the travel and the villages that deal with fogs and bad weather. How will that issue be addressed to make sure that its adequate patient care?**

- Dr. P: There are very limited numbers of rapid analyzers in the country and Alaska IHS is very fortunate to get a few and have a lot of places that they need to distribute them. As I mentioned we will struggle to get more, ask for more, beg for more, and slowly get more and be able to put them out in the villages. There is not much more we can do on that. I will say though that the swab we have out there now that are effective and there will be days that the weather is clear and will be able to test people. Keep in mind that if someone has symptoms of COVID-19 we are going to treat them as if they have it even if we cannot do a test. There are parts of the country that cannot do testing and they have patients that come in with COVID-19 like symptoms so they treat the patient as if they have it. We would always do that. The test does not treat the illness so we can always make the assumption that someone has it and if someone was sick and a place was fogged in we would treat them as if they had it until we can get them tested. The entire lab testing for all the medical care that we give is the same way. The only rapid tests that we give in the villages are rapid strep, rapid flu and rapid pregnancy test, there are very limited rapid test and everything else that we have is sent in to Nome. It's what we have lived with and labs have always had to come to Nome. We will work to get more analyzers.

○ **Can you tell us more about the traveling analyzer?**

- Dr. P: If we had an outbreak in a village we would need to bring out an analyzer to the village so we would bring one from our Nome supply and fly to the village and then we can test people right there on an emergency bases. We will always have one available if we need to fly out to the village. If there was a situation where a community needed a lot of rapid testing we can bring one out there. Just because one is not stationed there full time in a situation where we needed one to be there we can fly it out. Keep in mind that individuals that are trained to run the test cannot necessary be in the village all year long. They will need to be on vacation or be away and doing those times we will not be able to run those test. If we need a unit in the village we can fly out there

with one.

- **Do you think the state mandate is enough to protect public health and safety?**
  - Dr. P: No they should at a minimum the state should still be doing 7 day quarantine with testing on day 1 and on day 7 and the reason why I say that is because you can see that is what Dr. Zink wants right? So she's not getting that from the state and the governor is pushing to open things up. At the same time what she got approved was testing upon entry and testing a week later and tell everybody to stay in quarantine for a week but not requiring it but just requiring the second test. The best option is 14 days and that's why cases were below 3 for the last month and that's why we had good numbers because of the travel ban. Well the next best would be quarantine 7 days with testing on day 1 and testing on day 7. It would have been a better option for the state to go with that but they chose what they chose. No it's not going to be protective, but it will be better than doing absolutely nothing but won't be fully protective.
- **What's the difference between someone who is generally healthy and someone who isn't with them getting the virus?**
  - Dr. P: What we know is that people who have additional medical problem will get sicker from the virus and someone who is generally healthier will not get as sick and that would be the majority of the cases but no always you may hear that someone that is healthier get sick and pass away from it.
- **If someone recovers from COVID-19 and the hard breathing they had and shortness of breath when the virus was active, once they recovered are their lungs back to full capacity of use?**
  - Dr. P: That's a good question. Not necessarily. There are people that go on to have chronic lung issues after and anytime you have pneumonia you can get scarring in the lungs. Lot of people recover and do fine but they are finding individuals who don't full recover. I'm sure that is related to the degree of severity and any under lying medical problems. The reassuring thing is that a vast majority of people do well with this and those who don't could potentially have long term issues.
- **OA: The rapid test analyzers are those a kit and how many tests are there in a kit?**
  - Dr. P: Have not run them but the analyzer is the unit that analyzes the material. There's a swab that goes into the nose. There's some additional material that goes into the analyzer. There's the analyzers and what they call the kits with the swab and everything else. When you have the analyzer you need to have the kit. The kit is what we order. It's the swab and everything else.
  - MM: When you order the analyzer you get 24 kits and you will have to immediately to use one to do validation on the machine we also order additional test kits which come in cases of 24. There are plastic pieces also with the kit.
- **OA: In the kit do the plastic pieces need to be wiped down?**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MM: The way the kit works there's some of the chemical and each test you run you use a plastic cup.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>OA: What do those kits cost?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MM: Those kits are only orderable by health care facilities and they are quite expensive and depend on how many you order at a time. Right now we are getting them through ANTHC allotment so we are not getting them at the normal price like a regular doctor's office would. We can't share that price but it's not something a no healthcare facility can purchase.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>OA: Are the analyzers different thing? Is it separate?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MM: The analyzer is the machine. If you think about the strep test that we use. There's a machine, and there's the kit which is swab, chemicals, etc. Unfortunately the machine that runs the strep tests does not run the COVID test so we had to by the machine and the kits to go with the machine.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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