

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
June 03, 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
Ben, Savoonga	Gary Kulka, MD, Primary Care Director, NSHC	Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk
Axel Jackson, Native Village of Shaktoolik	Carolyn O., City of Teller	Cora A., City of Teller
Dan Harrelson, City of White Mountain	Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomede	Deborah, Wales
Toby, Golovin		

*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"> 1) Blessing 2) Medical Staff Briefing 3) Changes with Governors mandate for travel 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: 18 new cases, 505 total cases in the state, 373 recovered, no new deaths for a total of 10 deaths, 122 active cases in the state • ANMC: 0 inpatients, 28 outpatient • NSHC: 2,302 people have been tested, 4,931 tests have been conducted, 3,763 negative, 1,165 pending, 3 people have recovered • Think what is happening is a large group of people are meeting together and that is where people are getting infected • We are going to see that with the state opening up and people getting together • It just shows how important it is to continue the social distancing and not getting together in big groups • We are going to see these big numbers for now • We can keep the numbers down by following all the guidelines and that is what is recommended
Updates	<p>Angie gave an update on employee testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norton Sound continues to offer mandatory testing here corporate wide for any employee who is working in a direct patient interaction position - To evaluate everyone being tested in the same week we have a procedure where certain part of the work force is tested each week - So this week we started back as week 1 - Just wanted everyone to be aware that testing is ongoing here and was not just a one or two time thing - We will continue that - Some parts of our corporation and services are not for vulnerable patients and so

	<p>in those areas like QCC we are testing every 7 days and other areas we are testing every 14 days and we may be moving to 7 days for other parts of our services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Just wanted to remind everyone that we continue to do that - We are also educating our work force and want to make sure our employees are social distancing even outside the work - We know that is a difficult thing to enforce even region wide if you are not working for NSHC but we do continue to educate our employees of that - As we are seeing in other parts of the state when large groups of people get together and those folks get exposed then you have a large number of people that get exposed at one event - Our constant message to just be mindful of what you are doing outside of work - Look at the size of group you are mingling with - We have a moonlighting policy; we want to ensure that our employees that have a second job somewhere that they has been cleared or disclosure to their manager and we able to look at that closely - We just continue to have all the other safety measures in place - If you don't know what those all are they are listed on our website and our facebook page
<p>Survey</p>	<p>Megan MacKiernan gave the following survey update:</p> <p>-</p>
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Can you go over how Norton Sound has started opening up medical services for the last couple of weeks? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: We are back in doing GI Endoscopy and Colonoscopy so patients will get called about having a colonoscopy to come to Nome and have that. It's safe, we test all the patients and we wear masks. Dental is starting to open up in Nome. Pretty soon they will start to open up in Savoonga and Unalakleet. Testing has to be done prior to those patients being seen. We have started some village trips. Our audiology, Optometry, Rehab, they are starting to see patients. Those are the primary things. For clinic I will let Dr. Kulka speak on that. ▪ Dr. K: We talked about this a little bit this morning at the managers meeting. We've started to reopen our clinic with varies services as Dr. Peterson mentioned. We are scheduled for Endoscopy clinic next week and the following week. We've already started contacting patients that have been deferred because of the COVID crisis. We are very confident that we are taking all the right measures and want to reassure the community that we are again following the standard precautions; all the infection control measures are above standard. We have been very through with the deep cleaning here in the hospital. We are trying to reassure the community that it's okay to come in for these important services. Endoscopy clinic, we have a big push right now for cervical cancer screening, we have been working with our population health team to identify patients that are overdue for those screenings in Nome and the villages. I think this is really important and the other important side of this is for the community to come in and do this and we are very

confident that we are taking protective measures so we can ensure the safety of our community, and ensure the safety of our patients and staff. As we start to open up these services we really want folks to come in. Patients who have chronic disease or don't get the follow up we feel they are more vulnerable to COVID-19 so we want folks to be health, get their preventative measures taken care of, get immunizations up to date. We are going to be working with the villages some more to make sure as we go through the summer month's we get people up to date with their care so that they are healthy and their prepared and have less risks.

- **On the Colonoscopy and Endoscopy you said that you have a clinic coming up next week. Can these be done at any time or are they set up for certain time throughout the year? If so how does one have that done?**
 - Dr. P: Good question. So Dr. Paul Davis is our GI provider. He does one week to two week a month of Endoscopy so there is a list of patients that we know who are due. We send out phone calls and get it done. We have people on the list who have had problems in the past who need to have it again after a few years. So there's that. There are people that are high risk that we call to get set up. Also if you individual want to have one set up or are having any symptoms you can go see your provider in Nome or the village and see them there and say hey I'm having symptoms, am of certain age, maybe have a family history of colon cancer and request it. Then your provider will set you up for the colonoscopy. There are two ways of doing that. But you can certainly ask them of that. If you are 40 and older and Alaskan Native you should have a Colonoscopy. If there is a family history of colon cancer you should start to have Colonoscopy earlier. Certainly if you have symptoms, heartburn, trouble swallowing; maybe have a history of stomach cancer in your family. You may want to talk to your provider about getting a upper endoscopy. For the lower it's usually the age base thing it's usually screening for the colonoscopy, but if you are having symptoms constipation, blood in your stool, stomach pain, weight loss or anemia you should get set up for colonoscopy.
- **Dr. Kulka is on the phone and was able to join a call with Dr. Zink and Norton Sound had a question for Dr. Zink regarding the airport testing that is taking place in Anchorage. Our question was someone is traveling through from the region, let's say they are traveling back from Wisconsin and are traveling to Nome or a village, would the state allow that passenger to be tested in Nome to satisfy the testing requirements and Dr. Zink was thankful for that question and did say they would honor that test and allow it to take place in Nome instead of in Anchorage on your way to Nome.**
 - Dr. K: Yes thank you. The state has a new requirement now for travelers that are coming into Alaska to be tested. I think it one or the only state in the country that is doing this. I think it's a fantastic way to catch folks from the lower 48 that could be potentially infected. They are setting this up and Dr. Zink said on the call that they are still in the process of getting this organized and are a lot of moving parts to get

this going. They really prefer that you have a test prior to coming into Alaska. It's easier said than done because not every place has testing ability. Fortunately in Nome we have a good testing capability. We have the testing tent in Nome that's open throughout the week and weekends and we have airport testing which we do daily. Our question to Dr. Zink was "Would you honor our test for travelers coming into the state and ending up in Nome?" and the answer was yes and that is great news for us because we use rapid testing here and can quickly identify a potential case and be able to isolate that patient appropriately. I think that is good news for our and more reassuring for the community that if a traveler is coming into Nome from outside the state they can get their test here. Again this is mandated by the state so we have again more leverage to have our folks tested and identify potential case and think that is good news.

- MM: Also Dr. Zink on that call did reiterate the importance of folks getting that second test 7-14 days after the first test and keeping their bubble very small. I think you can think of it as quarantine like for those folks between the two tests. She is not advocating that the folks come back from the lower 48, have one test and return to absolutely normal activities.
- Dr. K: That is absolutely correct. Megan thanks for the clarification of that. That is a part of a greater process of testing and quarantine. So folks still need to quarantine and Dr. Zink was supportive and we also in agreement with having a second test of the quarantine and think that is good and very good point. It is good data to show that you can catch approximately 95% of the cases by testing on day 1 and day 7 of quarantine. Again that is very good information on that.
- MM: The state is also supporting and encouraging small village communities to keep their travel restrictions and what not in place and that people too quarantine during those two steps. In those communities to keep those restrictions.
- **Any word on when eye care will travel to Savoonga?**
 - AG: July 27th they will be going to Savoonga if approved.
- **When will eye care travel to Elim?**
 - AG: Looks like June 22nd they will go to Elim.
- **Do you have percentages test results for villages?**
 - MM: based on village population as listed on the Norton Sound website map so it's possible that census numbers may be a little off.
 - Brevig Mission: 16%
 - Elim: 14.75%
 - Gambell: 13%
 - Golovin: 26%
 - Koyuk: 15%
 - Little Diomedes: 17%
 - Nome: 33%
 - Saint Michaels: 17.9%
 - Savoonga: 14%

- Shaktoolik: 9.6%
- Shishmaref: 14%
- Stebbins: 10.4%
- Teller: 19%
- Unalakleet: 14.65%
- Wales: 19%
- White Mountain: 24.6%

- **If I go to Nome and go back to White Mountain I am required to go into quarantine for either 2 weeks or 7 days if I have a negative test. When NSHC employees go to the villages, for example audiology, are they required to quarantine when they get there, and do they have to quarantine when they go back home again?**
 - Dr. P: They test before they go out to the villages. When they are there they wear masks, gloves, and social distancing. People can be in quarantine and still be working. We are essentially doing that for audiology, optometry, and rehab. Those are the only employees that we have going out to do clinic. Primary Care Clinic we are doing remotely. What we got approval for is to do testing and have people go out and do the masks, gloves, and social distancing. So that is what we are doing there. For midlevels that go out to work in the village they do 14 day quarantine in Nome before going out. Health Aides that travel to Nome on the weekend to shop they go back they will have to follow the village guideline at a minimum and if NSHC guideline is stronger than that were kind of look at all the different employees we have going out to the villages and do travel. The best things we can do is put it all in a document together and share that with each village leadership to know where we are at.
- **The reason why I raise the issue is because one of the village health aides for WMO made a quick round trip to Nome to pick up her new truck and came back to WMO and was tested at the clinic prior to leaving but was told that she would have to go into quarantine and would not be available to work. They are already short of health aides and tough not to have the other health aide available for work. She meets standards for PPE and one would think she would be able to work.**
 - Dr. P: That's helpful that you brought that up. I will tell you that most of the messages that we are hearing are the opposite. It's that we don't want the health aide going to Nome coming back and going to work. We want them testing and quarantine. We want to honor that when we can. In your case we can accommodate a situation where perhaps a village has to have a health aide getting back sooner and if the village is supportive of that there is way's that we can do that. We are just now putting all that together and had a meeting yesterday about this. We are just now putting it all together now for health aides and how we are going to procedure with that. Kirsten Timbers I know is working on that. We'll get that together and present that. I will say for your individual situation where we need to get health care personal working because we are short and it will affect the care of the community there

is ways we can safely do that with meeting safety guidelines.

- **Do some villages have a coordinator that coordinator all of this?**
 - Dr. P: We have managers for each department and we make sure everybody is tested before heading out. We don't have many people heading out now. There are not a lot of people to keep track of. We do have managers that keep track of that and testing and those employees are doing what they are supposed to be doing. As far as the health aides and travel back and forth as it opens up more we will get guidelines together soon and get that out. The health aides have supervisors and it would be their responsibility to make sure all the health aides are following guidelines.
- **Referring to other workers outside of NSHC, do the cities have health inspectors?**
 - MM: Some communities are hiring VPSO's.
 - NSEDC is planning to have a safety officer on hand at their plants.
 - Unalakleet is hiring for a village tribal assistant but not 100% on the title. The person greets the plane, and reminds the passengers that there is a quarantine they need to follow. Will be making changes to it at the meeting and just putting things out.
- **Do you receive what charter or private planes that come in?**
 - Think there is a website you can go to and see what planes are going into your town.
- **If things get worse or what would it take for the governor to shut down the state?**
 - Dr. P: We don't know for sure but I'm sure the governor and Dr. Zink will watch things closely and make the right move if things get worse. If things get worse they are going to have to tighten up some travel and we will all be watching closely. I'm sure they will have the best interest of Alaska in mind and we will just have to watch. There are state calls that we can give our opinions on also.
- **What kind of papers will be provided if there is someone that is monitoring people that are flying into the villages that shows that they have been tested?**
 - Dr. P: People are supposed to show evidence of a test when they come. So they are going to have to have evidence of the test. They also want you to go online and register where you are going to quarantine, where you're going to test. My understanding is there is a website that you have to go and log in and enter that information. If you don't have a test you have to test at the airport. Don't think there's paperwork in hand that you need to have but that you have to go online.
 - Dr. K: Dr. Zink mentioned that they are still in the process of organizing that. I think there is more information to follow regarding how the state is going to do this. Still think it's not fully clear but should hear in the next day or so on how they clearly want to do that. We can share that on the next leaders call.