

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
June 04, 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
Jason Harrell, NSHC	Rhonda Burrnet, NSHC	Joanne Keyes, Native Village of Wales
Opik Ahkinga, City of Diomedea	Native Village of Savoonga	Trudy Bell
Annie Weyiouanna, Shishmaref Native Corporation	Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Joleen Oleson, Kawerak
Howard Weyiouanna, City of Shishmaref	Preston Rookok, Native Village of Savoonga	Marie Katcheak, Stebbins
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. Announcement: We will not have a call on Friday June 5th and will have a call on Monday June 8th.</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: 8 new cases, 513 total cases in the state, 376 recovered, no new deaths, for a total of 10 deaths, 127 active cases in the state, 48 hospitalizations total in the state • ANMC: 0 inpatient, 37 outpatient • NSHC: 5,085 tests have been conducted, 2,355 people have been tested, 3,871 test returned negative, 1,158 pending, 3 tests returned positive, 3 recovered cases • The state put out their requirement now for people coming in from the lower 48 and it is basically they want people to test before they come into the state • If they don't have test they can get it done at the airport but they are really encouraging for people to get it done at the airport • They want another test 7 to 14 days after arrival • What they are really pushing for in the state mandate: continue testing, and really continue self-quarantine for a week until the 2nd test comes back • I like to see the state is staying strong with requirements of coming in • People can still come to Alaska they just need to get tested • This mandate starts Saturday June 6th • We are going to have more cases, the virus is around, more people are traveling • We do not need to fear that and just need to continue what we are doing which is wearing masks, washing our hands, and social distancing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we continue doing that and not meeting in groups at funerals, at potlatches, at dances, other gatherings, other picnic gathering, if everybody is staying away from that and if someone becomes positive they will have a small contact circle • Someone can get COVID-19 and not spread it to other's then we are in a good position • We are going to be okay, the state is opening up some, they are still requiring testing, still educating, still telling people to self-quarantine, and really be careful • We all just need to continue doing that so when a positive pops up there is not 10-15-20 contacts that need to go into isolation • Norton Sound is trying to be a good example of that, there were two employees and very minimal contact • You can do your part at keeping the state safe, and our region safe by adhering to those guidelines and encouraging others to do the same • You are all knowledgeable now about this, so for your village, region, area, community, neighborhood, step up and make comments if you hear that somebody is going to have a large gathering, talk to them, remind them to keep to no more than 10 people and they need to be social distancing • Received an few emails stating another community invited people to join their potlatch, dances, other activities, and stated that they would like to politely decline and wanted feedback, you are choosing to the right thing and don't worry about hurting people's feelings or stepping on peoples toes, just politely decline and encourage others to do that • This the year to spend a lot of time with your family, maybe you will step on toes for not spending time with other people but if they don't understand the situation try and educate them • This is the year to do a lot of stuff with your family on your own and get through the summer and get through the next year
<p>Updates</p>	<p>Angie gave an update from Norton Sound Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sent a reminder to all staff with the City of Nome travel form - This is a reminder that managers who maybe be bringing in contract staff for assignment or any employees who are returning from travel that they are aware that they need to have a completed travel form in hand - Wanted to share with any staff that is listening today and any partners wanted to make sure that, that message has been sent and that our personal traveling will be completing and have that form in hand - Administration, Medical Staff, and Village Health Services have been talking about having a consistent message for in region travel - We are speaking specifically to our employees that may be traveling from our villages into Nome and going back into their village - There has been questions on quarantine requirement, our employees, what's the difference between that vs a provider heading out to the village - Norton Sound is coming up with some written guidance for in region travel - If someone is traveling from a village into Nome, using Teller as an example, they drive in on the weekend they want to be able to access grocery store and then go back to Teller, what is Norton Sound is moving to is if you travel into

	<p>Nome you need to be tested here at our tent prior to returning to the village and test 24 hours later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The other change is Norton Sound toward testing every 7 days for our village based employees - We have the same practice in place for our nursing staff - That population that we are serving are extremely vulnerable so the more frequent testing we do the faster we can identify the virus if it exist - We are going to move to that same testing for our village staff <p>Angie’s statement: I just want to thank everyone listening. I know this has been really difficult to navigate because things change all the time. Here at NSHC we find ourselves writing policies, having them approved, revising the policies. Meanwhile mandates at the state level change. So we can understand if it is confusing for all of you, it has been difficult for us and we just thank you for your patience.</p>
<p>Survey</p>	<p>Megan MacKiernan gave the following survey update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The survey is on going - We have received several responses so far - Anyone who has been test can text in and take that survey or fill out the paper survey at your testing spot - Only one entry per person - Anyone who has tested can enter - Today’s winner is Caroline Proulx of Nome
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o People come from Fairbanks or Anchorage and they get tested in the clinic when they arrive after 7 days they do it again will the lab notify the clinic if they are negative or positive? If they are not a NSHC employee and a resident of the village? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: If they are a resident or former resident and they are now living within Alaska and they are going to go up to a village and travel within Alaska. If it is just travel within Alaska the state does not have a requirement that they have to do a test. The state requirement is if you are traveling from out of state or out from out of the country they would have to have a test a head of time when you come in or at the airport. They can fly through Anchorage, through Nome, go right to Bering Air, fly to the village and follow that village rules about entering. Somebody within Norton Sound will have the result and rely it on to the patient. ▪ GS: Just a reminder that if you are traveling from Anchorage to Nome even though you are going to the village as your final destination you still need a travel form to come into Nome but whatever community you are traveling to ultimately everybody is being instructed that they need to follow the village requirement for coming back to those villages. Just want to make sure that is clarified. The travel form is online at nomealaska.org and is now a fillable form. ▪ PR: Savoonga tri-council made a travel ban for their community and it was updated on May 28th. we used to let our former residents that were

coming from Anchorage or somewhere else quarantine in Nome for 14 days but changed that on May 28th that as long as they get tested in Nome before coming they could quarantine in Savoonga for 14 days either at village native quarantine places in our community or in their home isolated.

- **If we don't have a computer and don't have access to the Nome online website will the travel form be available at the clinic?**
 - RL: The form was sent out to the city, native village, and clinics.
- **For anybody traveling to Nome and returning back their villages and testing before they go home and 24 hours after they return home, when does that start?**
 - AG: We just put it in writing yesterday and wanted to share it with Village Health staff and tomorrow is Friday so we will probably kick it off on Monday. Currently if there are any employees traveling into Nome they just have to run that by their supervisor. I will allow managers to work with their employees case by case on things. If some type of travel happen between now and Monday. We just wanted enough time to get the word out and get it in formal procedures and we will have that on our employee website for employees to access.
- **When you send that PSA out can you also fax it to the village offices like the City, IRA, corporation offices so that not only employees know about that but also the public offices as well so that will help too?**
 - AG: Norton Sound is also working with Kawerak on a coordinated regional travel approaches. I do not have the latest update on that but do know that our goal was together to recommend some type of language for your travel mandate that could be used so everybody could be consistent. We will also share that once that is available.
- **We are starting to get fires in our region and if someone inhales the smoke with it make it hard if you have the virus?**
 - Dr. P: Anything that makes the situation harder to breath and if you had COVID-19 and there was a lot of smoke around that would be a worse situation yes. They are talking about the perfect storm. Additional stuff happening during COVID-19 season, forest fire, ground fire, tundra fire, would not be a good thing if someone got COVID-19 during that. Even more reason for villages in that region that is affected by the smoke to do even more and be tighter with their masking and distancing.
- **What mask would be the best for the smoke?**
 - Dr. P: You want to avoid the smoke if you can. If you are inside and stay inside is best. If the smoke is that bad and is in your house. N95 mask is one that blocks out 95% of virus, and other junk. N95 would be better than a cloth mask or any other mask. Smoke kind of is in the air that you breathe when it's there and there's kind of not a mask except fire fighter mask and anything short of that is probably going to be about the same.
- **Is the City of Nome restricting anyone coming to Nome or are they letting anyone come in?**

- GS: The City of Nome has no restriction from anybody traveling from the villages to Nome and back to the villages. The villages have their own requirements and we urge everybody that is coming from their village to follow whatever their travel requirements are. Right now anybody can travel from Anchorage to Nome but they would still have two options, a 7 day or 14 day quarantine. 7 day being that they would be staying in Nome and would take the 7 day with a swab the first day and quarantine, not interacting with people, no going into public places, and being tested on the 7th day at the hospital and whatever the results are that information is maintain at the hospital and if you were negative for both then you can now leave quarantine. The other one is standard 14 day quarantine and all that information is now on the travel form. Even if you are passing and having to stay in Nome for a day because of your flight, we are still expecting you to quarantine when you are in while you are on your way to your village.
 - **Of the 15 villages in the region what are each individual plan for opening up or how it looks for each village?**
 - RL: The latest version of the travel ban on the communities cheat sheet is available on our website. You can head to nortonsoundhealth.org and click on the COVID page and you will be able to find it on the right hand side of the page.
 - OA: Diomedes is filling out the travel form that was sent out by Glen and the passengers are either from the clinic or the community and some of them are going in to do some fishing and other stuff but we require them to wear masks before they hop on the helicopter. Not sure if the clinic in Diomedes tested them so contact the travelers to see if they got tested. With the passengers complete the form they email the form to the pilot and Glen.
 - **Are the vaccinations the same for all age groups?**
 - Dr. P: Child vaccines are different from adult vaccines. They are generally all different. Now the flu vaccine is not tremendously different between adults and young people but certainly children get a lot of vaccination. They are really different. You should be able to get a vaccine at your clinic whether you are a child or adult. So if you are in need of one you should be able to make an appointment to get one done.
 - **Is Unalakleet planning on revisiting the travel restrictions sometime soon?**
 - CC: There is a meeting at noon today to go over the travel restrictions again. There was one Tuesday and they went over some details and another one today.
 - **Communities that have boats that travels to other communities, have you established guidelines for other boats that enter into your community?**
 - Unalakleet addressed this sometime last month when we had request from other villages to come up and pick up large appliances from the airport instead of them having it shipped to their villages. We had people come pick up their appliances by boat. They were only allowed to do that and then they had to leave the community and were not

allowed to enter stores and go to places. Also recently with herring fishing we had fisherman come from Shaktoolik and they had to camp outside of Unalakleet and was not allowed to go into public places but were allowed to get fish and deliver fish.

- GS: For Nome they would have to enter with our harbor master and there are guidelines that are posted on our city website about boats and traveling into the City of Nome. They are trying to remind people that if they are visiting other communities outside the census district that they would have to quarantine. We are informing anybody that is coming into get food or take supplies that they need to be respectful of what the community requirements are for interacting with the communities and trying to work with Kawerak to make sure that message is put out by anybody that comes into the City of Nome by boat.
 - In Wales when this all started the president of the tribe faxed a letter to the outlining villages that there was no travel to land by sea. We haven't updated it on our mandate and that is something we will talk about on June 13th.
- **The City of Nome as of now is not making any changes to their interstate policy yet correct?**
 - GS: The state has not actually made their changes to my knowledge until June 5th. Of course there is no travel into Nome over the weekend by Alaska Airlines. It's my understanding that they are not going to be flying into Nome on the weekend through the month of June.
- **If the City makes any changes to the interstate travel it would be further down the road correct?**
 - GS: That is correct.
- **Is there voluntary testing for business like the store?**
 - Dr. P: Norton Sound recommends that all individuals can get tested on a voluntary basis for free. Everyone in the region we don't care if they are a teacher, lived in the village for 90 years, if they are brand new, they can get tested at the clinics, or the tents for free. We encourage people that come in contact with a lot of people to get tested every week or two. For example grocery store workers, cab drivers, airline workers, post office workers, health care workers, and so on. If you know of a grocery store worker encourage them to come in and get tested.
- **MAS: Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski will have a town hall at 5pm tonight and if you want to participate you can check out the website and sign up and get the call in information.**
- **Discussion was held on masks.**