

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
June 16, 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	Charles Swanson, Native Village of Koyuk	Amos Brown Sr, White Mountain
Opik Ahikinga, Diomede	Blanche Garnie, Teller	Joanne Keyes, Wales
Deb, Wales		

*Over 40 participants attended today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
Introduction to Meeting – Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO	<p>Today's Reminder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please keep phone muted unless speaking or asking a question <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Medical Staff Briefing 2) Changes with Governors mandate for travel 3) 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>
Updates	<p>Angie gave an airport testing summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of Monday Norton Sound has tested a total of 211 people at the airport testing in Nome - Of those 211 people 97 are local(from our region), 26 of that total traveled outside of the state of Alaska, 88 of the 211 were Alaska residents outside of the region - Seems like the airport testing has picked up which is good <p>Angie gave update for coastal meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email was sent regarding the meeting with the coastal communities; Teller, Brevig, Wales, and Diomede - The meeting will be Thursday June 18th at 2pm - Was able to get the message out to leadership with the exception of Brevig so if there is anyone from Brevig please email rlean@nshcorp.org to make you aware of this notice - Also we are creating flyers that can be posted in those communities that way boat captains are aware of the meeting and encourage them to call in <p>Megan gave update on cleaning supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning supplies and other items are starting to come in - We got a bunch of things yesterday and as we get this inventoried and repackaged we will be getting some out to the communities <p>Angie gave an Admin update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next week on the 24th of June Senator Sullivan has made himself available to call in to our daily call - His staff reached out yesterday and is interested in hearing from all of you the impact of the pandemic here in our region - We will make sure to include that when we announce the calls for next week <p>Angie gave fishery call update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeping in mind that reds will be running sometime in July we will have large group of people fishing together - One specific call we wanted to have, which was going to be separate from the

	<p>NSEDC call, was on fishing education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will set a date and make sure we announce that call and the focus will be on subsistence fishing <p>Megan gave an update for village percentage of testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brevig: 18.4% • Elim: 19.8% • Gambell: 14.7% • Golovin: 26.9% • Koyuk: 17.8% • Little Diomed: 22.7% • Nome: 39.9% • Saint Michael: 22% • Savoonga: 17% • Shaktoolik: 12.8% • Shishmaref: 15.6% • Stebbins: 12.4% • Teller: 27.4% • Unalakleet: 17.6% • Wales: 25.8% • White Mountain: 28.1% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Region wide that gives us a percentage of 26.4% of region wide testing at least once; that is based on full location in the patients cart on where they state they live
<p>Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, NSHC Medical Director</p>	<p>Megan MacKiernan gave medical staff update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska: as of yesterday there were 3 new resident, 1 non-resident cases, 664 cases, 21 patients are currently hospitalized, there are 76 current non-resident cases in Alaska • ANMC: 1 new outpatient case yesterday, 0 hospitalized, 53 patients • NSHC: 5 cases, 3 recovered, 2 active, 6,659 tests done, 2,814 unique patients tested in the region, 5,296 negative, 1,358 pending <p>Dr. Peterson made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was on a call yesterday with public health state epidemiology and asked them to talk about the 29 cases over the weekend and the epidemiology stated that the big large gatherings are a really big mistake - One person at the gathering that could have COVID would go on and spread it to everyone else at the gathering for example - I'm hoping they got a hold of the Kenai's case, Whititer and Providence case which had big groups get sick - Unfortunately it's going to be a summer that you will need to keep your bubble small
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I have been hearing stories about escorts not being able to visit with their patients even though they are family. This is traveling to Nome from the villages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MM: So it depends with the visitors with restrictions with us and elsewhere. If we have a patient who is not their own guardian then the

escort will be allowed to stay with the patient and would stay with the patient at all town, not come in to the facility, leave, and then come back. The same for escorting a child who is in the hospital. You would want to stay with the child. We will bring meals and everything to you and not leaving and coming back. Also escorts coming with our laboring mothers in labor. If for patients who are otherwise their own guardian and adults typically those escorts are asked to stay at the hostile and visit remotely by phone to minimum the number of people and the risks on the inpatient unit.

- **Escorts are given this information before they travel than?**
 - MM: I believe that is on our visitor policy.
- **Recommendation was made that escorts are made aware of the visiting restrictions before traveling.**
 - RL: We can make sure to community with our staff that books those arrangements to share that information.
- **OA: Diomede has a couple of people traveling to Nome tomorrow and one is an escort. What do they need to do?**
 - MM: It really depends. Let's someone is coming in for a colonoscopy. They get their pre-op appointment for their colonoscopy, they will get their COVID testing on the patient and we would encourage the escort to get tested in the tent. But it is a little bit different for the patients in the inpatient unit. So if somebody is coming in and going to be on the inpatient unit then they are going to be receiving that information.
- **Wales made a comment of the items they received from OEH.**
- **Out of the people being tested in Golovin, what can they do to get more people to do the COVID test?**
 - Maybe IRA can do door prizes once a week for testing.
 - NSHC has a daily prize for people that have gotten a COVID test done and if they complete the survey.
- **Was wondering when someone tests positive, do you test again to make sure it is not a false positive?**
 - MM: The way that this test works is that it looks for something very specific like the finger print of the virus. The test comes back positive it means that it found a finger print but if it doesn't come back positive then it didn't find the finger print. This test has an extremely low false positive rate. What's concerning on this test sometimes is the false negative rate and that's why we have people testing more frequently because it could have not been a whole finger print and then not test positive. If a test comes back positive it is considered positive, false positives are forwarded to the state and what they do is GEO typing and they actually see which type of the Coronavirus it is because there are a couple different types around the world. If it comes back positives it is considered a true positive and they do not need a second test. Negatives are considered presumption negatives but if the test comes back negative and the patient really looks and feels like they have the symptoms of COVID we might still treat them.
- **How many times has the virus mutated and has it gotten weaker or**

stronger?

- MM: That's a really good question. There are a number of strains of this virus and they all seem to be about the same as far as their infectiousness and how sick people get with them. The changes are extremely minor and are not in the parts on how sick it makes people. It changes in the RNA which is kind of like DNA which is little bit changes. This virus actually mutates less than other viruses like the flu because of the corona structure.
- **Do most villages have their billboards up? We have about 5 up in Nome.**
 - Stebbins has theirs up in the hallway at the store.
 - Diomedes hasn't yet.
 - RL: If anyone wants to share photos of their signs up in their communities you can email them to rlan@nshcorp.org.
- **Do you have newsletters sent to home's about COVID in our region?**
 - RL: We have not had a newsletter sent out to homes since April. That is something we are looking to doing again.
- **Update was given on water basins and spigots. Request was made to send out a flyer on hand washing and spigots when they send the spigots out.**
- **Are you going to be making announcements on KICY and KNOM for the fishery call reminder?**
 - AG: Yes thank you. We will make sure we do that so we can reach a large number of people who are not checking email or facebook. We will do that.
 - RA: Can you also do it also in our native language? Yupik, Saint Lawrence Island and Inupiaq?
 - AG: Yes I will have my team do that.
- **When we travel with our babies, it was mentioned that if they are under 2 year olds do they not need a mask?**
 - Dr. P: The whole ideal about mask is that you want to use mask in a safe fashion. You don't want to put a mask on someone that can't handle their mask. If they are not qualified to remove that mask to protect their airway we don't want them to putting a mask on. We can say that kids fewer than 2 do not meet that definition. There would be other people that would meet that definition. Maybe someone with disability who can't remove their mask. It's not that they shouldn't and that they don't need it but it may not be safe for them to use it.
- **Suggestion was made to post in the newsletter about all the new COVID-19 symptoms.**
- **If they cut down air travel could there be water transportation?**
 - Dr. P: With COVID-19 I don't see air transportation being cut down. If air travel would shut down then water transportation would be an option.