

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
July 14, 2020**

Amy Hollis, 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 30 participants attended today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
Introduction to Meeting – Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO	<p><b>Today's Reminder:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please keep phone muted unless speaking or asking a question</li> </ul> <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>
Updates	<p><b>Angie gave the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No new cases to announce today</li> <li>- Had the chance to attend the city council meeting last night and there was good news from that</li> <li>- They have voted to continue or extend the emergency order for the next 60 days</li> <li>- Thank you to all of you who texted or sent in comments or in person to advocate for that to keep our region safe</li> <li>- The meeting went well and there was a positive tone</li> <li>- I still have a follow up task to schedule a focus call with our school administration so BSSD as well as NPS</li> <li>- NPS has published their return to school plan</li> <li>- I have not seen BSSD's yet</li> <li>- Will get that scheduled and will give in advance</li> </ul>
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<p><b>Dr. Peterson gave medical staff update on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alaska:</b> 1,579 total cases, yesterday there were a total of 40 resident cases, 14 non-resident, 25 hospitalization, 1 person with COVID on ventilators, deaths have stayed the same</li> <li>• <b>ANMC:</b> 3 inpatients, 187 outpatients, 16 employees</li> <li>• <b>NSHC:</b> 11,400 tests, 4,252 individuals, 15 positives within our region, 3 outside of our region that are region residences, no additional cases this week</li> <li>• We have done extensive village testing in Teller and one other village and so far no of those have come up positive</li> <li>• The city council I thought was a good meeting</li> <li>• People were in general were levelheaded and asking questions</li> <li>• I feel that everybody is understanding of the whole pandemic and understanding the importance</li> <li>• I mentioned and encourage people to come on this call if they have questions and this is a good place to ask, learn, and give feedback</li> <li>• False positive came up at the meeting and I gave information on that</li> <li>• We do have a couple larger tents that are on their way that will be at the airport</li> <li>• We want to fix the flow and will have more tent and more staff and will hopefully have more people interested on getting tested at the airport</li> </ul>

Question and Comments

- **How many active cases are in the region?**
  - **RL:** As of yesterday, the state website is a little off on that count, but I know there have been at least 9 that have recovered of our 18 cases.
  - **Dr. P:** One of the reasons why Norton Sound doesn't necessarily know everyday is that public health manages the case and they clear them and we don't necessarily know when they are cleared so we have to go to the website and sometimes the website isn't up to date. We know we had 6 cases in this week, so we know those are active because it takes 10 days to clear them. We don't know about the out ones so we can't say. I would say 6 in region and a few out of region. We apologize for not having the accurate number.
- **How many of the positives cases how many had symptoms?**
  - **Dr. P:** I would say that probably 4 or 5 of the 15, i would guess a quarter had some. Some had mild. We are seeing that some don't have symptoms.
- **Are the one's with no symptoms true positive cases or are they false positives?**
  - **Dr. P:** Any positive is a true positive because a lot of people don't have symptoms. They don't have symptoms, they test positive, they are a true positive. We must treat them all that way. It's possible that someone doesn't have any virus in their body can turn positive, but I think the chance of that happening is small. We do know that a lot of people test positive for the virus doesn't show any symptoms. We must believe the test when it is a positive test. I don't want people confused. If somebody has the virus, they have no symptoms, that is a true positive, even though they don't have symptoms. I don't believe we have had any false positives in the region. So then people will ask "Well I heard of somebody who had a test and it was positive, they had no symptoms, hadn't traveled anywhere, and then the next day they had a test and it was negative." Well I am going to tell you that these tests are more likely to test falsely negative meaning you have the virus, but you test negative. That happens much more commonly with these test analyzers. If someone tested positive and the next day tested negative and they don't have symptoms it's most likely the have the virus, the next day their test is falsely negative, an error, or the virus was just reduced in their system the next day and didn't show up. Thankfully we have a very small number of cases in our region so far but we have to take every case as a true positive because if we did not do that and the person was allowed to walk around and spread the virus to everybody all of a sudden our numbers would start going up like they are in Anchorage. None of our cases have been false positives and they have all been true positives.
- **Are there any new treatments or better treatments?**
  - **Dr. P:** We are hopeful that a vaccine will be the best treatment. We are hopeful that the vaccines that are being produced will be effective because that is probably our best chance for limiting this COVID-19 virus. There are a lot of vaccines being developed and some are

**AGENDA ITEMS****DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION**

showing real promising results so that's the main thing we are watching for. There's never likely will be a pill that you can take to prevent a person from getting this virus. The one thing that is happening is that when people get the virus and get sick from the virus, we got medication that can be used that seems to be helping a lot more. There's steroid medication that can be used to bring inflammation down and other anti-inflammatory medication that can be used. They are studying the medication more and there are better medications for people who get sick. We really want to prevent people from getting sick and the vaccine is the way to go.