

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
July 22, 2020**

Angie Gorn, 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
Amos Brown, White Mountain	Sherri Anderson, NSHC	Axel Jackson, Native Village of Shaktoolik
Joanne Keyes, Wales	Ellen, Wales	

*Over 30 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 - Tomorrow we will start the call right at 11am since we will have BSSD and NPS on the phone - Tomorrow's focus is back to school reopening plan <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri Anderson with Behavioral Health Services shared some anti stress stretches while waiting for more people to join. <p>Glen Steckman, City manager update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City of Nome has new travel form up on the city website - The form will no longer require a signature from the city manager or city staff - The form is going to outline folks coming into Nome can either pick a 7-day quarantine in Nome with two tests managed by Norton Sound or an option of a 14-day quarantine - The form explains what the city expects out of essential workers when they come to Nome - A person now signs that he/she attests and agrees to what they are going to do - We are shifting the responsibility off the City organization onto the individual who is agreeing to this - This is a fillable form online and needs to be presented at the airport and eventually hope that we will be handing out these forms before you board the airplane in Anchorage before coming to Nome to make it easier who were concerned or who were filing requests at the very last minute - Can call the city with any question - Still has the emergency order in place until at least September 11th and the council are looking at an ordinance that would extend it through 12/31/20 as a regular ordinance because we can only issue emergency ordinance for a 60 day period
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave medical staff update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska: I have Monday's number and waiting on Tuesdays • For Monday 109 total resident and non-resident, 2041 cases in the state, 737 recovered, little over 1,200 active cases, 3 are in our region • 32 in the hospital, 1 on ventilator, 18 deaths, over 600 beds available in the state in the hospital unit, 97 are ICU bed, 266 ventilators available • The numbers for yesterday are as followed: 92 residents, 2 non-resident, 1 additional death bring it to 19, 34 hospitalization, 1 patient on ventilators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANMC: report weekly, 2 inpatient, 230 cumulative outpatient, 19 employees • NSHC: has 3 active cases in our region, tested close to 13,000 test, 4,500 people • Testing percentage in region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brevig Mission: 31.10% - Elim: 29.20% - Gambell: 18.59% - Golovin: 33.52% - Koyuk: 30.51% - Little Diomedede: 30.68% - Nome: 55.23% - Saint Michael: 33.57% - Savoonga: 25.51% - Shaktoolik: 25.62% - Shishmaref: 38.36% - Stebbins: 23.97% - Teller: 71.48% - Unalakleet: 33.82% - Wales: 34.13% - White Mountain: 36.45% - Region Wide: 40.32% • Fort Yukon had done everything they thought they could do to prevent virus from entering their region; They had travel bans and other things in place, but they were not doing a lot of extensive testing • In June they opened up their travel, they shut down their travel bans and opened up like the rest of the state did and then unfortunately people with symptoms showed up and they got a test and it was positive and then they got analyzers and started testing the whole village and found at time of this article 21 cases in their village • I think the fact that we are testing most of our villages aggressively we need to boost some numbers in some of the region and remind the health aides and the midlevels there and every resident of the villages to get in and get tested • We need to continue to test and that will be the way to catch people early • We know masking up has been able to keep people safer; mask up in Nome or your village if you go into any public space • We will continue to watch the numbers closely and hope they start to trend down
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are the high numbers related to July 4th holiday? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: They are thinking that these cases are probably related. That's the spark that started it all. So, a lot of people got together in parties and people got infected and they spread it to other people and those people spread it to other people. When one-person gets it, they could have it for two weeks and be spreading virus for two weeks. Ya I am sure this is related to the fourth of July. At some point people got to get masks on and isolate and certainly one of the concerns is if public health department doesn't have enough people to make phone calls then they can't call people that they have a positive test or close

contact. It's not there yet and think they are calling everybody that has a positive test but certainly don't want it to get where we can't at least call those people and say please go into isolation. Again, time will tell. Yes, I am sure some are related to the Fourth of July and the reopening.

- **Are public health training people to help them?**
 - **Dr. P:** They hired the national guard and university of Alaska in Anchorage. They hired some large groups of people and their training them right now to do contact tracing and I think that is a very smart move. Get large groups of people that you can hire who can do this training and they will get on top of things. As they say there it's all hands-on deck and they are trying quickly to get everybody and get them in quarantine. We want to see those numbers to go back down in the 40 range in a hurry, but it may take a week or longer to get there.
- **With the spike we are seeing in Anchorage, does the NSHC gearing up thinking we may see a more case here?**
 - **Dr. P:** We expect to see more cases and when there are more cases elsewhere in the state people travel, we do expect to see an increase in cases. Our cases have kind of followed the rest of the state. We expect to continue testing aggressively so that we catch these people early on. The road system and Anchorage if they had been able to stay up on all these contacts and get them in isolation they would have been in a better position and I think we are in a good position to get our people in isolation and on contacts quarantine and we are still able to do that. We are going to continue to see more cases, see an increase, see more cases because there is travel going on. Time will tell how that looks but we are going to follow suit with the rest of the state. Our numbers have always been fearless. Again 1200 active cases in the state and we have 3 active cases. There was a time when we had zero active cases or 1 now, we have 3 but it's still a small number. We can see an outbreak where we could have more aggressive community spread but it's stopping people at the airport, making them do a travel form, testing them at the airport, increasing our efficiency at the airport so more people can test. These are all the things must continue to do to try and prevent something like Fort Yukon where they have 20 people that are infected.
- **Comment was made about the history of Wales.**
- **If you have a case in the community, and the housing situation is crowded, and someone must be quarantine, is NSHC providing cots or other items?**
 - **Dr. P:** What we have done to this point is we have tried to identify isolation and quarantine housing in each village, and we have kind of a manager in charge of that in each village. If there is an outbreak in the village, we place the person who is positive with COVID-19 in the isolation housing and their contacts in the quarantine house. Most every village has isolation and quarantine housing. The first thing is we try isolate or quarantine the person in their own home. If we can get quarantine or isolation to happen in the home that is what we will do. The next best is village isolation or quarantine housing. If that doesn't

	<p>work, then the schools are available. We would only go to the schools if a significant number of people needed a larger space. We certainly have housing in Nome as well if a person needs to quarantine or isolate in Nome. We have several layers that we go through. The good news is that most people can do the isolation or quarantine in their own house.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does the form apply to patients that are traveling from Anchorage back home to their village? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GS: Would we ask them to fill out a form and that they understand when they come back that the community is requesting that they isolate their individual self from the rest of the community and that means not going into the stores at this point or any other public spaces. Hanson's and AC's are now requiring that you wear masks. Isolate as well as you can, take the two tests by the hospital. We are not going around and being the enforcement police. We are simply asking folks to sign this document, they expect what the expectations are, and that they please follow them. ○ With Unalakleet being a sub-hub does NSHC plan on creating or having just specifically one person doing the testing for the clinic? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. P: We would like to get as many certified people in each village to run the machine because people go on vacation, people get sick. We would like to have as many as possible. I think there is at least two if not three that are trained to use it. We do want to have more then one person trained that way there is always someone there. ○ Comment was made about Unalakleet's and testing at the clinic. ○ New travel form for the City of Nome was discussed.
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