

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
January 25, 2021**

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

*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 <p>Note- Any questions may be sent to Public Relations at pr@nshcorp.org anytime or text to 907-434-1927 and they will be answered during the 11:00 am call.</p>
Updates	<p>Kelly gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 case, community in Nome, a NSHC employee. Waiting for press release to come out. Limited contact, found during routine testing <p>Reba: 70 doses available this week here in Nome for 16 & older.</p> <p>Will meet again Monday, Feb. 1st, 11am.</p>
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 178 new resident cases in the State of Alaska. - 1 additional death from North Pole, a resident in their , 260 deaths in the state - 7 active cases in Nome, 2 in villages. <p>Vaccine: people are getting their second doses in the region. We have 975 Pfizer, 400 doses moderna coming next week. Good supply, more than last time, expected Feb 3rd. Big PR push to get vaccinations in the villages. Looking at options to ease access to getting the vaccine. Will update later on the website. If you need an appointment, get on https://pickime.com/NSHC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About 700 doses available in Nome next week. - Incentive program will hopefully roll out. Maybe changing PickTime, to allow anyone to show up during certain hours. Will expect an update to the public on Monday. <p>New Variant: from UK. South African variant in the lower 48. They will get to Alaska eventually. Please get your vaccine, that is the way to prevent any of this. Continue to mask and social distance.</p>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Toby: What percentage of kids in the schools are 16+? Can NSHC send out Pfizer to students? MP: Gonna do everything we can to get people vaccinated. Shishmaref, Gambell, Stebbins, SMK, Teller, Unalakleet Pfizer is available. In those villages 16+ can get vaccinated with parental consent. Also available in Nome. Have plenty of vaccine in Nome. After those villages, we'll look at the remaining villages and get the 16-17yo lined up in the villages that don't normally get Pfizer. First, need to focus on the initial villages who currently have Pfizer. Within a few weeks, we hope to get J&J for 12+. Toby: Golovin will find out Feb. 4th if they'll have school student sport travel will happen. Will require negative test. MP: Would support students getting tested prior to travel. Please make sure this is coordinated and not last minute as the plane arrives. o Roy, SVA: Someone mentioned a vaccine for children 12+. MP: several companies working on vaccine for 12+, hopefully expect by summer. Will continue studying kids in increments (age groups: 12, 10, 8 for example). Roy, SVA: Heard about a 6yo girl who was severely ill from COVID. MP: Yes, not very common but can happen. Excited

to get kids vaccinated once available.

- **Caller:** For the employee who tested positive today, what precautions is NSHC taking? What other precautions is NSHC taking for employees? **MP:** Everybody masks, social distances and tests. If somebody tests positive we don't want a positive employee to pass to coworkers. All our staff who tests positive isolates or if they're close contacts, they quarantine.
- **Roy, OME:** Might be a consideration to the school district, to have students sign up with parental permission for each village (16+). Could be important to make sure each vial is used effectively. The reason staff are testing positive because they're seeing people from the public? Through NSHC's role as a healthcare provider they're getting exposed/infected? **MP:** Most likely, our staff are getting it through the public (after hours). If we had lots of COVID patients in the acute care or the hospital we would expect more staff to be infected. But that's not frequent, most likely our employees are getting them from the public when not at work. At work, we test, wash hands, mask, & distance. **Reba:** regarding the first question, that's a good step going forward to get 16-17yo kids vaccinated in the schools. **MP:** That's a possibility regarding how many people get their doses next week if the appt slots are wide open next week. We gave 80 doses over the last 4 days (about 25/day), with 70 left. We want our appts to be (100/day). Our board is going over the incentive programs. If we don't have many appts. Potentially: set up the community to sign up at AC/Hanson's with an iPad to connect people to the PickTime System. We'll be doing a variety of things to get people vaccinated. **Roy:** Would you consider setting up at the post office? When I was running for BSNC board, I met with people in the public at the post office. **Reba:** That's a good idea. We might consider that. We also might offer walk-ins for people to get their vaccine.
- **John:** This might be a trend for SVA for updated vaccine numbers. Wondering about numbers & percentages. If you target adult population, that's a good percentage. Pfizer is available in SVA. **MP/Reba:** Waiting for Monday for statistics on vaccine rollout. There was additional vaccine out to SVA. SVA has both Pfizer & Moderna. Next week might be second dose Pfizer. Expect more vaccine every week to SVA. Will make sure to get updated vaccine numbers every Monday. **John:** How do we compare to Northwest Arctic for vaccine distribution? Per capita, NSHC might have the best numbers for COVID cases as well as vaccine process.
- **Debra, WAA:** If you're bringing Pfizer to villages, will the clinic be reaching out to the schools to get kids 16+ the vaccines? **MP:** We haven't scheduled that plan yet, but that's something we can look at and that is a possibility to get their parental consent. Is that something that WAA would support? Please call your clinic to put your son on the list to get vaccinated (waitlist). Further down the road we can look at the villages that are currently just Moderna offered and we can fly out to bring Pfizer. We will make note of that and discuss with Pharmacy. It might be a while til we can offer this, but it is a future possibility.
- **Annie, SHH:** For the contact the schools, get ahold of the superintendent to make sure he's aware. **MP:** Absolutely, we'll contact and discuss with superintendents for sure.
- **Toby:** Has NSHC ever considered getting own plane for medevacs & patient travel, etc.? **MP:** We have considered it before. We contract with airlines and medevac providers. It is currently most cost effective to contract out at this point. Most places contract out their medevac services. It is something we have considered but our current process is the most cost effective.
- **Opik:** This new COVID variant? Is it more infectious and deadly? **MP:** It is more infectious and does spread more easily, but it isn't necessarily more deadly. Vaccines work to still prevent it. **Opik:** Why is it more infectious? **MP:** Virus changes and mutates to spread more easily. Unsure of the exact physiology, it latches onto our cells more easily, to spread more. **Toby:** Does that mean we should double mask or triple mask? **MP:** There are conversations regarding doubling up (surgical + cloth mask) on masks. But we'll wait until the CDC gives that guidance. Continue to mask, wash hands, distance, etc. Consider hanging out with people that are vaccinated. We expect guidance from the CDC in the near future. When your mask gets soiled, wash on a regular basis.
- **Debra:** Is this just homemade or manufactured masks? **MP:** Some masks are better than others. Clinical/surgical masks would be better, They're all helpful to a certain degree. **Megan:** Wear a multi-layer masks (at least 3 ply).
Debra:

- **Toby:** Some people don't test or vaccinated? What do you tell those people are their rights? What do you tell those people? **MP:** In those instances education is the way to go. We tell them the facts. 400,000 people have died. 1/200 die. COVID is real, it is out there. If they are reluctant or have fears, we tell them facts and help them understand misconceptions about the vaccine and COVID. The vaccine is safe. I know you may be young and may not have a severe illness from COVID, but to look out for people around them (parents, family, friends, yourself, etc.) 1/100,000 may have a reaction to the vaccine. Education is the best way to reach out to these people. The more people hear facts the more likely they are to get the vaccine. **Toby:** For the PR team, one of the things that came up recently is if someone is getting the vaccine and if they're pregnant? **MP:** If women who are pregnant, trying to get pregnant, or breastfeeding, it is safe to get the COVID vaccine from all current research. From what we've seen so far, it isn't harmful to those populations. In fact, COVID is more dangerous to those groups, all the more reason to get the vaccine.