

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
November 23, 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

*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>Angie gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday was super busy with new cases announced in Nome, SMK, and SKK, but NSHC had the opportunity to conference call with village leadership in SMK and SKK - Saturday: A lot of patients in Nome wanted to be tested, a lot of the appts were filled, but we were able to get a lot of staff in to get more testing available. 5 new cases in Nome were identified, all close contacts of previous cases. - Sunday: shared a press release with just 1 positive case for a Nome travel - related case. Later last night, we were aware of a second case, a non-resident of Nome case (2 positive cases in Nome yesterday, both travel-related). - Just shared our new dashboard, active cases for the region is 44 (45 with new case from last night), dashboard will be updated weekly
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: 500 for the state, close to 300 in Anchorage. So many cases in many places. Cases across the state. Some regions are doing well containing the virus, other areas not as much (urban areas, YK), but many places with just 2,3,4,5 cases a day. We had many cases over the last few days, but we've been able to get a lot of that under control • ANMC: • NSHC: On KNOM with Mayor Handeland, about what we need to do as a community. Real message now it to Hunker Down and keep your bubble small. If you were to turn COVID positive, we expect you to only list your household as your close contacts. When at work, wear a mask and stay 6 ft away. Don't gather for birthdays, funerals, or holidays. Keep your gathering to your immediate household family. If you have family with other households in Nome, please try and keep your get together to just your immediate household. Our former outbreaks in Stebbins and Gambell are from people gathering inside. Our staff won't be getting together socially in houses. Especially important here in Nome, where we have COVID here, and there's community spread. Look at Bethel for example, we don't want to get to the point of 40-50 cases a day. • 3rd vaccine: Announced by Oxford/AstraZeneca, we expect another emergency use authorization soon. Megan Mackiernan: They did a large trial, and experimented with many vaccine schedules, also in a two-dose series. A small

	<p>dose to start with, and a second larger dose. We expect same effectiveness as the prior to vaccines announced (Pfizer, Moderna). We expect other vaccine symptoms and side effects with this vaccine, the normal hum-drum of getting a vaccine. No virus on the vaccine, just proteins of the virus. We won't be giving them out until we know they're safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have the ability and the testing to find out where the virus is and hunker down. We as a hospital and our staff were overwhelmed over the outbreak on the weekend. We can't afford to do that every week, every other week or every month. • It's a hardship to be doing this social distancing, and hunkering down, but it will be a while before we get this vaccine. Keep your distance and wait a little while longer until most of the public can be vaccinated.
<p>Question and Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caller: We read that people can be infected from not just 15 minutes over the course of the day. Close contacts are considered people who are within 15 minutes total throughout the day (whether that's 3 (5 minute) times throughout the day. ○ Axel, Shaktoolik: When people go to stores and wear masks, that is helpful. Our school is shut down, and no children are allowed in the store. The people who tested positive are isolated. Question on the washeteria: There was work done in there and need it to be sprayed down and cleaned. Megan: We can send you information on foggers and sprayers for cleaning, but water and soap is an effective way to clean. Keep it wet for 10 minutes at least to fully disinfect. ○ John Waghiyi, Savoonga: Are employees required to quarantine when they return to the village from Nome (either for training or personal). MP: Our staff are required to follow the local travel mandate and quarantine requirements. We have not made any allowances for staff to not quarantine. We may have had a health aide run a test analyzer in the back, while on quarantine as a close contact, but other than that expect our staff to quarantine. ○ Sherri Anderson, Nome: Is there any plans for NSHC to meet with the City, or the 4 tribal governments in Nome? MP: NSHC and the City of Nome meets on a regular basis, and we communicate directly with the public via our PR team. Dr. Kulka has created a video we will share. It is critical for the next few months (especially next 6 weeks) to wear a mask, to socially distance and to not gather. The City of Nome is putting out education and to wear a mask. If the city is going to do anything beyond that it is their prerogative. There is an EOC meeting tonight with the city, and we will participate and share our comments tonight. All our employees wear their mask at work, and we will be staying open for business. We wear masks, we keep our bubbles small, and no social gathering. Glenn Steckman: City offices are closed except the PD, and City Hall. We urge people to pay their bills online, wash your hands, socially distance. We will be putting a PSA out to wear a mask at all times and wash your hands. We may urge certain types of businesses to close at this point, but that is essentially the direction we are going tonight and will discuss at tonight's meeting. Sherri: Last week we had an outbreak in Nome, and many businesses were open over the weekend. Our schools are closed. We need to look at our history in the region, and how they locked down in the 1918 pandemic. MP: The way to get COVID is person-to-person contact, being within 6ft for 15 minutes.

What we saw in Nome was person-to-person contact with people gathering inside. It's not as much items touching. We need to be responsible and do the smart thing, and have the schools do distance learning. We think the school probably could've been safe in this time, however we're taking a conservative approach to the school closing for online learning. We had people go to work, subsistence, and stay home afterwards. We can get the message out for everyone to do the right thing, we can do that without sowing fear amongst the public. If a place of work can get their staff to wear masks, they should be open. If a business can't do that we would hope they'd close until they are able to do so or until after the pandemic is over. We expect the city to do the right thing and will be attending the meeting tonight to share these concerns. GS: the meeting is 7pm tonight and at city hall council chambers. There is zoom link to call into.

- Barb Gray, Nome: Someone advertised an email to submit comments. John Handeland: Comments have to be received by Thursday prior to the meeting to be in the agenda. The zoom link and email are available online via City of Nome website.
- Megan AS: Is there a mask mandate in Nome? Is there a mandate to close bars and only offer takeout for restaurants? We need these to close to open the schools back up and get this virus under control. Glenn Steckman: City has encouraged restaurants, stores, bars to wear a mask policy. Not mandated yet, the City Council hasn't allowed the mandate to close down establishments that sell alcohol. MP: Those are good points; the council is meeting tonight. M A-S: Encouragement doesn't work, we need mandates for COVID to get a handle on it. There's a study from University of Kansas comparing areas with mask mandates and those without.
- Roy Ashenfelter, Nome: Concern is with the bars. You can have people use the mask, but as they drink and get more inebriated, the ability to mandate themselves to keep their distance and wear their masks lessens. We need a mandate for those bars and looking at that as people gather to socialize and drink. MP: thanks for those comments, we expect the city to listen to your comments and look at all the options.
- Inuraaq Evans: Who has the authority to mandate masks and close bars? MP/GS: The city council has the authority to do that. IE: Will the city address that tonight? GS: Yes, during the "Manager's Comments".
- Roy Ashenfelter, Nome: If you have a place where COVID can continue to spread, and they're still open, you're not doing enough. Restaurants can be open and offer takeout. However, bars are where COVID is spreading. MP: We expect the city
- Barb Gray: The bars are taking a hit now. The spreading can gather in any gathering type situation. Personal choices folks. My children chose to live their life the way they do, and I chose to stay away from them. It's your own personal choices. MP: It doesn't matter if you're meeting in a bar or a church service, if you're gathering together the virus doesn't discriminate and can spread when you're not wearing masks or socially distancing. Don't get together and have family gather together at your house
- Amos: Has the cab issue been addressed, where lots of people ride the cabs together. MP: The cabs can be where the virus can travel as well.

- Blanche Okbaok-Garnie: I don't believe anyone is diligent on wearing their masks when going to the bars. I wish the bars would close and restaurants only open for takeout. Affecting our whole region. Is NSHC looking at where we get our supplies? MM: Yes, we vet our vendors to look at where we get our supplies. Many of our supplies come from state and federal stockpiles that are vetted. We haven't had any products that have been recalled. Look at where you're buying your disinfecting wipes from. We encourage everybody to look at where you're buying your supplies from; there are bad actors out there.
- Annie, Shishmaref: There's an outbreak in Nome. Are our staff and providers being safe and those that are going to villages? MP: NSHC and the outbreak in Nome, we are limiting travel from the villages to Nome except for urgent situations only. We are offering telemedicine or getting seen locally. The same thing with any travel to Anchorage, and we're limiting it until Dec. 3rd. We will be limiting escorts unless necessary. NSHC has visits happen locally and mid-levels. We don't have docs traveling for visits. However, Dental is different, they test before going out and test while there on extended trips. We're watching to make sure our providers aren't close contacts or in quarantine or bringing any virus out to the villages. Same quarantine process for our villages and any mid-levels coming in. Annie: Need update in telemedicine process, because half of the time for tele-med is connecting to the provider. MP: We will work to address that. Angie; Over the course of a few days, we've been made aware of housing available and we're working on getting a permanent mid-level out there. We will share a final announcement. We're still talking through the Behavioral Health process and getting more Village Based Counselors. Annie: Thanks for keeping our region safe and working hard through this pandemic.
- Joanne Keyes, Wales: Wanted to make a comment about VTC appts in Wales. We have a great group of health aides who help us connect to our VTC providers in Anchorage/Nome. Wanted to express how they've taken care of us and our needs. Thanks for the daily calls to give information to the communities and for the education. Wish you all a happy thanksgiving!
- Toby Anungazuk in Wales, thankful that COVID hasn't gotten to Wales yet. Joanne Keyes: We're taking a lot of communities.
- Caller: What's going to happen when COVID hits our airlines and carriers? Who's going to send freight when COVID hits our airlines because that's how we get much of our supplies and food. MP: Bering is doing well with requiring passengers to have negative results, and expect them to keep going. Caller: Make sure chronic patients to have their supplies and meds at the clinic, especially because of bad weather and potential COVID delays.
- Megan AS: For patients who've had COVID, are we making sure people have access to Vitamin D supplement and high Vitamin D foods? MP: yes, we can do that. The State has discussed Vitamin A, Zinc, etc. Megan M: Many of those vitamins are available over the counter or in a multi-vitamin. Please contact the pharmacy to get some. Megan AS: We don't want people to have to ask for them, but that they should be given to COVID patient positives. Please put salmon on the menu.