

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
November 30, 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><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 Public Relations at <a href="mailto:pr@nshcorp.org">pr@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>- <b>Wednesday:</b> 16 cases identified in Nome</li> <li>- <b>Thursday &amp; Friday:</b> 7 cases identified over Thursday &amp; Friday in Nome.</li> <li>- <b>Saturday:</b> 3 cases in Nome identified.</li> <li>- <b>Sunday:</b> No cases identified. 57 active cases</li> </ul> <p>Just an update on City of Nome's ordinance from last week: closing bars, dine-in restaurant, changes to number of households who can be in a cab at 1 time, and number of people gathering. In our press release and NSHC policies where if you have traveled or if someone in the household has traveled to stay home. If other employers are on the phone, we hope you guys implemented it as well.</p>
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> rising numbers expected until vaccine arrives</li> <li>• <b>ANMC:</b> expect lower staffed ICU beds, 35 people in hospital with COVID</li> <li>• <b>NSHC:</b> 57 active cases in Nome, We expect Nome outbreak to slow down and hopefully decline over the following weeks. We expect more from the initial outbreak, but hopefully 5-6 cases or less. NSHC placed an order for a dozen more analyzers. Opened up NSHC Ops building for larger space. Building a more robust response team with physicians for Nome response (who will assist village response).</li> <li>• <b>Vaccine:</b> FDA will be voting on who the vaccine gets to (healthcare workforce), getting ready until it arrives.</li> </ul>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Axel Jackson, SKK:</b> Delivered going well on their cases, and a resident who tested positive while in Anchorage, came back to SKK with residents concerned about him testing here. Wondering when we expect COVID in the villages. MP: Best guess that it will happen before summer. Probably January, February, and March to vaccinate people who are high risk. Expect first responders and medical providers in next 60 months. Has SKK hired someone to meet someone at the plane? Axel: Have a COVID coordinator who has been hired and been asked to meet the plane. Called AVEC for the cost of utilities and making sure the facility is ready for patients and cleaned between each use by quarantining people. Can you still get COVID from the vaccine? MP: You can still get exposed to COVID while on the vaccine and have a 5% chance of contracting it.</li> <li>○ <b>Caller;</b> Asked Peterson for state numbers? MP: around 400, but they're getting</li> </ul>

delayed cases.

- **John Bioff, Nome:** Do you think the last outbreak is being controlled at this point? Is NSHC expected to control the case well and do we expect more cases in Nome? MP: We have it under much better control, and the majority of the people who have gotten positive have followed our protocols and tested and isolated. The next week will be telling, with a number of people testing positive on their 7 day test (not the initial test). Numbers are trending downward and the spread is low. In our villages that have tested positive we have gotten a handle on it, however Nome has a larger population (3400 people). Now that it's community spread it is hard to get it back to 0 because it is hard to test everyone and the accountability in Nome. We expect cases every day but we plan on controlling the expected 3-5 cases everyday. We need to keep testing everyone. After Thanksgiving we expect there might be more cases and we expect people to test. We need everyone to not gather inside and not gather for Christmas. John: We thank NSHC for getting this under control and all the villages. It must have taken a lot to get to everyone in Nome contact tracing and quarantining. On KNOM this morning: Kotzebue is going to a model 3 similar to City of Nome, on how we restrict travel and everything Nome is implementing. MP: Much of our success is based on people working together from the City, village leadership, and everyone working together. We appreciate it, thank you. Preston Rookok: Gambell & Stebbins has had an outbreak, meanwhile Savoonga has minimal cases.
- **Irene Navarro, GLV:** What's the update on Golovin? Is it at 0? MP: We expect them to have 0 active cases, maybe some few people still on quarantine. It's hard to know as the numbers as they change everyday.
- **Lucy Apatiki, GAM:** Last call in Monday, we have plenty of ventilators but not enough staff to operate them. If NSHC got into a situation where that's the case, is there a plan in place or is there backup staff who can be called upon to help in an emergency? Or is it depleted across the state? MP: NSHC doesn't expect to get into a situation where someone who needs critical care to not be able to get care. The state on our correspondence is working together to make that happen. We expect to get our patients into a critical care somewhere (ANMC, Alaska Regional, Fairbanks, or the Valley). We don't expect to get to that point, but if NSHC needed to care for people for critical access needs, we have the staff and equipment to temporarily provide that care. It's been 9 months into this pandemic, we haven't gotten to that point and we don't expect to with the vaccine underway. We've worked with the state to offer care for people from our region who may not need the higher levels of care anymore and to allow to open Anchorage beds.
- **Roy Ashenfelter, Nome:** Last week's city ordinances will help our spread and our region to prevent spread in the villages. As time goes on here, we expect snowmachine travel to pick up. As they travel among villages there is a need to educate people to follow village mandates and requirements.
- **Caller:** With the cabs closed on weekends, can NSHC offer rides for medical travel to and from patient hostel and NSRH. That's typically just a weather situation as to why the cabs aren't running. Angie: typically when the cabs shut down, our patient drivers aren't expected to be on the road, and we don't expect

planes to be flying. We will examine this and get back to you hopefully soon. NSHC has a patient taxi cab voucher with Bering Air when our patient driver isn't available, and with our patient hostel. We will be checking to make sure the processes we have in place are working.

- **John Waghiyi, SVA:** Is the plane cabin more dangerous than other situations? MP: Being in any small enclosed space is not good (small space where air flow isn't exchanged often) whether that be a cab, or small building or anything. John: We see ads for Point Of Care Attendant/Technician in Nome Nugget, is that for hiring local people to work on COVID? I see you don't see experience needed for running that analyzer. MP: Yes, that's to fight COVID, you don't need a specific background or education, as long as you have a HS diploma to run the lab analyzers. Don't need to have a medical background or experiences.
- **Angie:** Reminder for village leadership: Our staff and providers will be reaching out about brining medical travel as well as having a negative test on hand prior to anyone traveling to our villages.
- **Caller:** If someone is quarantining from out of region and needs help with the boiler, should someone go and help them? MP: It is not likely that someone on travel quarantine will test positive, different from close contact quarantine. Have the person come help you with your boiler, stay in your room, and keep your distance. It is not advised to put on a mask and hang out, but stay away while they fix your boiler.
- **Deborah, Wales:** How long will patients have to wait or delay their medical travel in Nome, after the recent outbreak? MP: We said we'd delay that until Dec. 7. We will be meeting on Wednesday to see what that will look like and update everyone on Thursday. If a patient needs urgent care they will be taken care of, however if it's routine care and can be delayed it will be. ANMC will be releasing guidance shortly to delay routine medical travel for the month of December. It's Christmas and there's high numbers in Alaska, and the vaccine is coming out shortly. We will update on Thursday if not before.
- **Caller, SHH:** Does NSHC still offer hand sanitizer in the villages? Tried going to the clinic, and city. MP: We can find out. Megan was not on the call, SHH IRA: has hand sanitizers available.
- **Annie, SHH:** Is NSHC offering services for people on quarantine/isolation. MP: NSHC calls people on quarantine/isolation to see how everyone is doing. We have a system for checking up on people in isolation, but not necessarily everyone on quarantine. We talk to people in isolation and make sure that any supply needs are met. Angie: The quarantine phone number is 434-0654. It is a very busy phone, and we have a time answering that phone and addressing the needs of our patients. **Preston, SVA:** Savoonga used CARES funding to hire a COVID-19 security to meet the phone and run errands as needed, and our native store is available for groceries and deliveries.
- **Deborah, Wales:** When will the villages in our region receive Lysol wipes? Angie: We haven't received them in Nome yet, however we will work with our Materials Management staff to see when the order will be here.
- **Annie, SHH:** Thanks for the Thanksgiving turkey, very appreciated.
- **Angie:** A person had asked if the cold air change the integrity of the sample at all? MP: We don't expect this to be an effect on the validity of the test due to

	<p>how short the sample is outside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Annie, SHH:</b> When you get your travel papers from the clinic, can you guys offer hand sanitizer or wipes on hand. Just enough to pass through TSA. Angie: We have plenty of wipes and hand sanitizer and we will distribute that to CTCs.</li> <li>○ <b>Marie, WBB:</b> She had a friend who got a turkey and they shared it. The stores were down with food, and we were able to get a nice thanksgiving dinner. Where could we go to be tested and is there a map for tests? Angie: We remember this request from before and will work on it and release it online.</li> <li>○ <b>Caller:</b> If you go out riding and have COVID, and your face got icy and you're worried about bringing the ice in the house. MP: If a person has COVID, it is spread via coughing and runny nose. Wash your hands, via soap and water or hand sanitizer, and also wipe everything down with bleach or disinfectant that you may have touched on your way inside.</li> <li>○ <b>Deborah, Wales:</b> Just make a request that whoever is doing a test at a location to test the elders first. Angie: We will work on putting that in place. Thank you for your ideas.</li> <li>○ <b>Opik, DIO:</b> Are the travel kit going to be sent to the clinic? Angie: Yes, we'd send a box with prepared kits with the mask, sanitizer, wipes. The CTC or Health Aide would include those items with travel paperwork. Opik: Is it realistic it to keep it at the hangar in Nome for Pathfinder? Angie: Yes, we can have it there at the Pathfinder hangar and staff.</li> <li>○ <b>Annie, SHH:</b> Is it possible to include a brochure/postcard in the packet? If you include where to test, where to get your results, etc. Angie: We have a flyer and info sheet for our patients already, and the number to call/text. We appreciate this call and being open to suggestions, and everyone getting the chance to learn.</li> </ul>
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