

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
February 11, 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>Angie gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new cases/updates. <p>NO CALL on Monday, it's President's Day, a federal holiday.</p> <p>Tuesday: Meeting with Dr. Bolen from BSSD regarding inter-village travel. Please read the article KNOM released on Tuesday, Feb 9 regarding travel basketball.</p>
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of Alaska: 136 resident cases, 10 nonresident cases. Alaska's cases have been . Hospitalizations are down to 34. No additional deaths. 278 total deaths in the state since the start of the pandemic. - NSHC: 1 out of quarantine, no new cases in the last couple days, <u>have 4 active cases in the region.</u> - Vaccines in the region are on schedule, just going along: People getting their first shot, others getting their second dose. Lately, a lot of it has been educating the rest of the unvaccinated public on the importance of getting vaccinated. <p>New guidance from CDC: No longer have to quarantine as a close contact if you're fully vaccinated (received both doses and 2 weeks has passed). We will have PR make an announcement about this. Just released yesterday.</p>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Toby, WMO: So what if someone travels and says they were vaccinated and actually haven't? MP: That's a problem, and since the pandemic started, most of it has been on an honor system on how people report their COVID and or vaccine status. If someone's not been vaccinated and they travel outside the region and come back, and they lie or are willing to lie about their vaccine status, that they're probably not going to quarantine anyway. It's an honor system, and people have to live with what they're doing. On the other hand, majority of the people who live here and are residents here want to be safe and keep others safe and follow guidelines. No matter what we do, there's always going to be some who won't follow the guidelines. So, there's probably going to be people to continue to not follow those guidelines. I think it's important to look at this in a positive light and see it as a reason to get vaccinated. <u>You can't control anyone else's actions</u> (whether they follow quarantine/vaccine guidelines or not) <u>however you can vaccinate and protect yourself and anyone around you.</u> The CDC has officially dropped quarantine if you're fully vaccinated (2 doses + 2 weeks for full immune response). We're fortunate that our case rates our low and that it's safe to be instituting this policy regarding vaccinated individuals. o Lucy, Teller: Teller has received Moderna. I was looking at the paper they give you when you get the Moderna vaccine and should we be reporting any severe side effects to the CDC side effects? Megan: If you've received any COVID vaccine & signed up for CDC's VSafe app, you should report any side effects that you've experienced. o Leo Charles, KKA: A PA said I had to get a COVID test to get the vaccine. MP: In Koyuk, we had 2 cases that were not related to each other. We want the entire village to test and every person to test. We want to make sure that anyone getting the vaccine doesn't have COVID at the time of the vaccine. We did want to test everybody at the time

to make sure they don't have COVID since the cases were community spread and not related to each other.

- **Caller:** Do you know which villages have updated their vaccine and travel quarantine? **Reba:** I've heard some communities considering it, but I haven't seen any formal updates: Diomedede, Shish, Unalakleet, Wales, WMO.
- **Caller, Native village of Shishmaref:** Haven't updated mandate yet regarding travel. You still need to quarantine, and test on 7 days from Nome, and quarantine for out of region travel for 14 days and test on day 7, and 14. Updated mandate once received will be posted on NSHC website. If any other community has travel updates, they can be sent to pr@nschorp.org.
- **PR:** Savoonga has updated their travel mandate if you're fully vaccinated no quarantine is required as long as you test upon arrival. **Preston:** SVA has updated their mandate and will be updating NSHC regarding SVA today.
- **Opik:** City of Diomedede has a meeting tomorrow. If you're not vaccinated, travel quarantine is still required
- **Blanche, Teller:** Also updated their community mandates and quarantine is no longer required after 2 weeks after your second dose.
- **Janelle, Teller:** Is this COVID vaccine a one and done vaccine or do we need to get vaccines next year? **MP:** The chance of us needing a booster is pretty good, as there's new variants. Pfizer and Moderna can make new boosters regarding the new variants. We don't know yet, the information is not out, but we assume that new booster will be required some months out. It's a rolling basis of new vaccines coming out and new data coming out. We know that people are covered for quite a few months. Keep in mind that we do that with tetanus, diphtheria, influenza, as well as childhood vaccines. It's not unusual for our bodies to need a booster.
- **Opik:** I don't know if Glenn Steckman is on, do travelers who come in from outside of Alaska are they quarantining in Anchorage or in Nome? **MP:** As long as people have been fully vaccinated and 2 weeks have passed, and they're coming from the U.S. no travel quarantine is required. If people are not vaccinated they still need to test upon arrival and quarantine for at least 7 days. When winter's over and as people travel more (boating), I'm wondering if any communities out there have changed what they do regarding inter-region travel. **Preston, SVA:** We're not offering any travel between Gambell and SVA, via boat, snowmachine, etc. Only people coming in are essential health workers and those who have traveled for medical.
- **Joanne, Wales:** Another meeting tomorrow. For individuals who have chosen to not vaccinate, have to quarantine for a week and test. If you are vaccinated, you no longer have to quarantine. For anyone who wants to share with our COVID dispatchers their vaccine records they can.
- **Opik:** Angie, can we set up a meeting regarding, Brevig, Wales, Diomedede, and Teller? **Angie:** Yes, we can do that. **Opik:** We have our meeting today, and we can put it on our resolution today. Do leaders of these communities think it can happen today. **Joanne, Wales:** Our leaders and communities would like to have notice prior to any bigger meeting. **Opik:** I'd like to get this into our meeting we have tomorrow. We want that on our city of Diomedede resolution regarding inter-village travel. **Angie:** I think we have contacts for everyone and can get a meeting in place but I think a meeting tomorrow is perhaps too soon. **Joanne:** It might be good to get Shishmaref included since they may travel through as well. **Opik:** with the new strains, we need to be aware of that in our communities to keep the vigilance. **Caller:** Some villages have intervillage travel bans. Talk to the school about those travel mandates. **MP:** We will have a talk with Dr. Bolen from BSSD regarding sports travel on Tuesday. We can talk to him about that. If these students (16+) are traveling we'd like them to get the Pfizer if possible. We'll bring that up with Dr. Bolen next week. **Caller:** Don't forget to make sure quarantine is followed.
- **Caller:** Are their new mandates in Stebbins or SMK? **Reba:** I haven't seen anything about that.
- **Preston:** It's really important to think about weather and safety to let people in if they haven't notified villages.
- **Axel:** We don't know if basketball travel is going on with sports. SKK tri-orgs have met with the school regarding any students coming in. Students who fly in, can't go to the stores, can't visit, and we'll coordinate some people who can go to the stores for kids. We want the kids to stay in school. **Preston:** We'll talk to our council and hear
- **Caller:** Seems as though COVID changes every month. We change our mandates every month. **Angie & MP:** That's a good point.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Berta, Shishmaref: Email for NSHC? pr@nshcorp.org