

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
February 3, 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"> - Technical difficulties yesterday, was unable to hold the call due to GCI outage. 125 cases yesterday. - Cases: Sun Jan 31st & Mon Feb 1st: 2 cases in SMK, 1 case in WMO yesterday. Since Sun working with SMK Leadership for testing. - Vaccination information: NSHC administered over 5000 vaccines, we will be discussing those prizes. In order to enter you need to have gotten your first COVID vaccine dose and fill out a very short questionnaire. You can fill it out online, via text and we will have paper copies available in every clinic. Deadline: March 31st. Grand prizes on April 1st. 16 prizes. 1 from each 16 communities: fuel voucher, \$500 grocery credit. \$100 for 1/10 survey respondents and we will examine some questions related to specific community prizes to see how we can make it more fair. 1 grand prize: trip to Hawaii for 4 + \$3000 cash and second grand prize \$8000 (+shipping if necessary) towards ATV purchased locally. - Sarah, PR: For NSHC employees are only eligible for the first & second grand prizes. Distributing copies of questionnaire to clinic for printed copies. Available on FB, Nome Announce, texting option, local clinic with paper copies. - Yesterday sign up at the PO: Had 15 people signed up to get the vax, and had plenty of people to enter the survey. Megan: Have gotten quite a bit of responses. One note: The survey only allows one submission per phone number.
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of Alaska, 175 resident cases, 38 non-resident cases (fishing industry) - Yesterday cases: 125 in the state. - Deaths: death certificate review found more, 277 deaths in the state: most in Anchorage region, some in Bethel, and other locations as well - NSHC: 2 active cases in Nome, 2 in SMK, 1 in WMO. All people are in isolation and safe. We have to continue to test and vaccinate. We want the virus to become less potent and lethal. The vaccination is helpful to not prevent people from getting it as much, but that it is less deadly when they do become infected. We're currently all about the vaccine. It is effective in fighting off the virus as we know it right now. We need everybody vaccinated in the region. We need to get the whole country to get vaccinated and at least first dose. We are offering walk-ins please tell people to walk up. 16+ Pfizer available. We'll have staff available assisting people to sign up for vaccine times. - J&J vaccine: possibly as soon as March & FDA approval. Single dose vaccine, a more traditional type of vaccine (Not MRNA). More stable and can sit longer (not as fragile/freezer etc.) - 1st doses, on average 40% vaccinated with first dose.
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Amos, WMO: On the underage shots will they have to be flown in if they're 18 and under. MP: There are 8 villages with Moderna vax: Teller, Golovin, Elim, White Mountain, Shaktoolik, Diomedede, Wales, Koyuk: 18+. We are

getting lists in those villages for everyone 16-18 who want to get Pfizer. Once we have those lists we will fly to those villages and get 16-18yo vaccinated. Parents have to give consent. We expect vaccine for those 12+ maybe by April. We'll fly to all the villages and bring the vaccine in this same manner/fashion.

- **Jolene, UNK:** How when you travel into Nome and you're vaccinated and don't have to quarantine. What about if you're heading home after out of region and children aren't vaccinated? **MP:** The only people who have to quarantine are if they have 2 doses and 2 weeks after. Those at home don't have to quarantine. Nobody needs to do travel quarantine in that situation. We all have to mask up, distance, not gather in groups, wash your hands. We need to continue doing those things. Stay within your bubble. There is a risk, the virus can still come in but keep your bubble small. We still need to follow guidelines.
- **Amos, WMO:** Entered via text, super quick & simple.
- **Sherri, Nome:** For the grand prize item, I would suggest that be those for tribal owners, specifically because it is tribally owned and if there's a way for non-beneficiary to get the donated items. **Angie:** Thank you for your comment. It is our goal in the region to get 100% of the people vaccinated. **Sherri:** there's ways to accommodate people to receive the donated items. **Angie:** Thank you for your comment.
- **John, SVA:** Is it in-house funding for these prizes for the incentives? **Angie:** These are provided by some funds that we've received but our own funds. **John:** Why is the 1st dose the qualifier for the survey? **Angie:** We want to incentivize everyone to get their first dose. **John:** It might be good to incentivizing for both doses? Is there a way to validate for those who fill out via text? **Reba:** We can work on getting a final message sent out at the end that verifies that you are entered into the drawing.
- **Blanche, TLA:** Is there enough vaccine for everyone 18+ in the region? **Angie:** The reason we have launched this incentive program now is because we have administered many vaccines so far. I can contact our staff to ensure that NSHC has enough in each clinics. I'll get back to you on that. **MP:** The Pfizer is for 16+, Moderna is for 18+. For those villages that have just Pfizer, everybody 16+ should get on the list. SMK, WBB, SVA, GAM UNK, KTS. Call to get on the list to get vaccine. They'll call you when the supply is there. We have new shipments coming in pretty often. Call in now and get on the list to get vaccinated. **Blanche:** If we get on the list, the vax will be here soon? **MP:** The health aides let us know how many people are on the list. We will send you 5 vials because we have 50 people on the list. If a community doesn't have any interest we won't send some. It's really important to get on the list. We'll keep advertising that and make sure our staff are informed and we will supply vaccine to your clinic based on that list.
- **Caller:** Were the 2 cases in SMK symptomatic? **MP:** They don't have symptoms, and hadn't traveled outside of the region. Where did the virus come from? The virus can hang out it can. Maybe this person had a previous infection and it was never caught. That's also possible. So we have to do 10 days of isolation. Once the virus is here it will probably be here for a while. **Caller:** even if they're vaccinated? **MP:** Yeah that is possible. The vaccines are 95% in reducing COVID disease. It would be extremely unlikely to get a severe case of COVID. We don't expect them to be sick or to spread it very much, but it is possible. We won't be reporting that in the future if someone is vaccinated and still get sick. It is possible that people can still be exposed and get the virus, but not necessarily the illness. The reason to get vaccinated is to make sure you don't get COVID, but is to prevent you from spreading COVID to others. If a person has COVID-19 (symptomatic) it is very infectious and it really spreads because they're symptomatic. If you're asymptomatic your chance of spreading COVID is reduced by 60%. If you're vaccinated, the chance of getting sick is reduced by 95%.
- **Lucy, GAM:** The case wasn't travel related. How can you have a positive case that's community spread **MP:** People can have the disease and have already recovered (not infectious) but can test positive for at least 90 months. The patient may have COVID before and recovered. Another possibility is that someone can travel, not quarantine, infect other people and this initial case is a close contact. We have to test people to find out where the virus was introduced. I don't think a false positive is the answer (extremely unlikely). If you ever have a cold or symptoms, go and get tested.
- **Caller:** How many cases in SMK? **MP:** 2.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Axel: When will J&J vaccine be approved? Once it gets approved will the vax be distributed to the villages? MP: When? Not soon enough. They're going to present their data to the FDA in "early February". It typically takes the FDA 2-3 weeks to review the data and release a EUA. Sometime in March they might get approval, and they can make the J&J vaccinate rather quickly based on their capability. We will definitely be wanting it and we will be requesting some sent to our region. Realistically, possibly some doses in March? They're testing on children 12+, so that might be about a month later (April). ○ Joanne, Wales: For the new cases in the state, there's lots of non-resident cases, are those new cases or is that circulating around? MP: It's a lot of non-residents cases testing positive.
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