

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
March 2, 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><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> <p>5 active cases in the region. 3 in Nome, 1 in Unalakleet, 1 in Golovin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resident, Unalakleet, community spread. School has gone into red zone for today and tomorrow, with Yellow zone on Thursday &amp; Friday.</li> <li>- Resident, Nome, community spread</li> <li>- Non-Resident, tested positive</li> </ul> <p>3 cases were identified and released from Unalakleet who tested positive while traveling in Anchorage. We later learned that night, that 2 of the 3 were clerical errors with the testing machine. So one positive case of a regional resident in Anchorage, and the others weren't actually positive. We reached out to Unalakleet leadership regarding last week's 3 cases and clerical errors (tests). 2/3 tests from last Friday.</p>
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 35 non resident cases. Quarterly death certificate reviews yesterday and 12 additional deaths found.</li> <li>- There is virus out there. We want people to continue testing at the airport. It's important to get tested.</li> <li>- For the Unalakleet case, we've tested 50% of the village, as that appears to be community spread. Now that people are vaccinated it might not be spreading as much and burning itself out and not spreading as readily.</li> <li>- We should be finding out soon when NSHC will receive the Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccine. We now have 3 vaccines available for anyone 16+. That's going to be the struggle to get the last 50% vaccinated.</li> <li>- Read about Cordova, and their Chief of Police, didn't quarantine and went on to coaching the Wrestling team. He infected a couple of students, and they tested positive, and caused plenty of people to quarantine in that community. It's really</li> </ul>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Axel, SKK:</b> We had a family who had COVID and the kids who got it while traveling out of region. They want to go to school. <b>MP:</b> They isolated in Anchorage per CDC recommended guidelines. They are recovered and safe, and can't spread to other people. They don't need to test for 90 days. The kids should go back to school, and it isn't against the SKK tri-org meetings guidelines.</li> <li>o <b>Debra, Wales:</b> In a couple of months, there's going to be lots of seasonal workers coming back up in the state. Is there enough testing, and can they vaccinate when they arrive? <b>MP:</b> We expect to continue testing, even at the airport. We don't see that going away. We expect to have plenty of vaccine available and they can vaccinate if they want to. We'd hope that as much of the local population can get vaccinated prior to people coming. Debra: We had 4 students 16+ who were interested in getting the Pfizer vaccine. <b>MP:</b> Let the clinic and our pharmacy staff know. We can get some Pfizer out there for those students. Pfizer has 5-6 doses per vial. So if you can get further classmates interested, that'd be important to not waste any vaccine.</li> <li>o <b>Joanne, Wales:</b> If we're vaccinated, should we get tested? <b>MP:</b> You should test when you travel, or if you're a close</li> </ul>

contact. If you're not traveling and don't have any symptoms, you shouldn't have to test. Perhaps, 1x a month to be safe. Megan AS: Isn't there a study in UK that when you're vaccinated you're less likely to be contagious. Megan Mackiernan: Yes. When you get vaccinated, your body produces antibodies, and there's less viral proteins being replicated in your body. The chance of spreading to others is incredibly low, because you're less likely to have symptoms, and spread.

- **Charlie, GLV:** Once you get COVID, you're not going to get it again. What's the difference between getting a seasonal flu, year after year after year. What's the difference on that? **MP:** Is it possible to get COVID today, and get it again, in a few months? Yes, it is possible, but pretty rare. It's possible, though, unlikely. **Charlie:** I know the flu and COVID are different viruses, and the flu vaccine is around 40% effective. My family took the flu vaccines one year, and our family gotten 3-4 cases of flu. **MP:** COVID is different than the flu, in that it's more infectious, spreads more readily, and that it is more deadly, and kills 1/200 people. The vaccines are different. The vaccines for COVID are highly infective. The chance of getting COVID after getting the vaccine is pretty low. The flu vaccine is very different and changes so much each year. The flu can be pretty deadly some years, whereas other years it's not as deadly/infectious. What people don't realize is that there's many different viruses/strains that spread around. You only have flu if you officially tested positive for an influenza virus. There's other viruses that are similar to the flu (sinus viruses, other viruses), but may not have flu. **Megan M:** The flu is not the same every year. The flu has many variants, and also mutates. That's super important to remember. This year's flu shot is different from last year's flu. If there's ever a booster developed for COVID 19 it will be used to cover other variants. **MP:** That's what the booster would be for, is not the same vax as this first round, but to cover other variants.
- **Charles, KKA:** People, who have their second round of vaccinations, and travel they don't have to quarantine, regarding travel mandates. But if they take their children, who aren't vaccinated, they would have to quarantine. **MP:** yes. That's correct. Anyone who doesn't have a vaccine, does have to quarantine.
- **Opik:** When do we get the J&J vaccine? **MP:** We expect to find that out in a meeting today to find out how much & when. We will talk about that tomorrow or Thursday's call. We probably expect late March. **Opik:** How soon after the single dose, will that be effective. We expect good protection after 2 weeks, and full protection 4 weeks or 1 month after their shot.
- **Debra, WAA:** How is NSHC going to be planning pharmacy trips for kids 16+ who want to get the Pfizer? **Angie:** I'll talk to Dr. Peterson later today, and see if we can post a schedule for kids who want to get vaccinated as able (16+).
- **Berda, SHH:** Do the patients that are waiting for their COVID results allowed in the Bering Air lobby? **Angie:** Bering Air has a policy that they only want people with negative results or people who are fully vaccinated (2 doses + 2 weeks post shot) to wait in their lobby. **Berda:** So people who are waiting their test results can't wait in the lobby? **Angie:** No, you can't. That's their policy and they check anyone in their lobby for that. If you're traveling from Anchorage to Nome and onto Bering back to their village, NSHC tests upon arrival, and asks at the testing site if you're heading to a village so that those tests can be expedited. We're working on seeing if we can have a rapid testing location in Anchorage at one of the airports when they travel back.
- **Roy:** Bering Air is trying to keep their staff and any customers safe. Bering Air is also using vaccinations to keep people safer. **Angie:** If anyone travels outside of the region, for whatever reason (chronic condition that requires travel), it's a great benefit to you to get vaccinated to be safe, and to not have to quarantine, and get your results back. It allows you to be less of a risk for your health & others. If you're in the lobby awaiting results, and eventually turn positive, it creates plenty of issues with exposures/close contacts that affects their staff.
- **Opik:** For the people that are vaccinated, and it does say that we can get COVID and carry it and give it. I don't understand why Bering would want unvaccinated people. **Caller:** Often times the pilots are unmasked and we can ask about that.
- **Nina:** Since we're discussing Bering Air policies & such. Can we invite them to be guests on this call? **Angie:** Sure. We can do that.
- **Debra:** Did you talk to ANMC about people who have to travel to Anchorage about the doctors/case managers to get

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION**

	<p>scheduled to get tested prior to traveling back to Nome? <b>Angie:</b> We looked into that, and some patients have enough time to get their test and results. ANMC doesn't use RAPID IdNOW as we do. Their results take a lot longer. We are looking at getting an NSHC sponsored rapid testing location in Anchorage.</p>
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