

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 10, 2021**

	Reba Lean, NSHC	Mark Peterson, MD, Medical Director, 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 – Kirsten Timbers, NSHC	<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>Kirsten gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since our last call on Wednesday, May 5th, 3 residents of Nome tested positive and were considered to be close contacts. In response to these cases, Nome Public Schools held a distance learning day on Thursday March 6th and a lot of follow-up testing took place. School is back to in-person learning today. - On Thursday, March 6th- two additional residents tested positive, one case was identified through the City of Nome travel mandate and the other case was considered to be community spread. On Sunday May 9, a Nome resident tested positive and this case is considered to be community spread. - There are 9 active cases.
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director – Megan Mackiernan, PA-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We're still seeing COVID cases in the region, however no one is getting seriously ill nor spreading it a lot. We just need to continue to get people vaccinated. We're continuing to press on. We're focusing on villages on numbers that are lower. - Gave 60 new vaccines last week. We'd like to get 90-100 per week. In the last 2 weeks we're about 1% more. We're at 58.5% of the total region vaccinated with at least 1 dose. That's about one of the highest vaccination rates in the country. - We expect FDA approval any moment for the 12-15 age group. We'd then wait for the CDC update. We expect that to be an additional 5-6% of our total population. We hope to update via the DTC, as soon as we know. We'll send out our mid-levels to administer the vaccines.
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annie, Shishmaref: Have Shishmaref numbers been updated? MP: A lot of the new vaccines given have been the second dose, but those are the correct numbers. Reba: Many of the percentages are based on the first doses given in a village, not the second doses. It's going to take many new doses administered for vaccines for the rates to be increased per percentage point based on village percentage. - Caller: Can you give the first doses given per community, such as Shishmaref? MP: Sure thing, the first doses given for Pfizer & Moderna: 268, J&J: 10, for a total of 278 doses given, which is 65% of the eligible population (16+). Dr. Peterson will tabulate all of the vaccines since February

for new doses given per week by Wednesday's DTC on 5/12/21. All of the vaccines given are recorded via the State of Alaska vaccine tracking system, VacTrak.

- Lucy: Which vaccine will be approved for the 12-15 age group? MP: It'll be the same vaccine (the Pfizer) but we'll expect information from the FDA on dosing schedules and information when that is posted. Megan: The 12-15yo has been approved in Canada and other countries. We expect the Pfizer dose for youth 12-15 is .3ml, and should be the same as adults. This is the standard for most vaccines among adult and youth age groups other than 6mos. Full FDA Approval for the regular Adult Pfizer is expected maybe as soon as next week to change from the Emergency Use Authorization. MP: That'll be great new once Pfizer has fully approved. It'll give a lot of comfort to people that it's been studied.
- Toby, GLV: I have a question on the vaccine tracker for the region. Are any of the vaccine shipments getting close to where they might be wasted/discarded. MP: No, not in our region. We have plenty of vaccine supply. Toby: I've seen information that the US is looking to donate vaccine to other countries such as Canada and Russia. MP: That's a decision that comes from the federal level, and we would have to wait for that. There's a dire need for vaccines in other countries, such as India.
- John, SVA: There's no shortage of vaccine on the other side in Russia. They're still very safe in the Providenya region, 0 cases in the 9 villages. MP: Russia has it's own Sputnik vaccine.
- Lucy: I had a question about the J&J vaccine and the slight risk of blood clots. It seems as though you can differentiate the type of stroke caused by J&J vaccine. MP: There's been about 15 people in the US that have had blood clots after the vaccine. The risk is in about 1/500,000. We only gave 10 doses last week. The risk of blood clots in Alaska/the US is very low. Lucy: How can you tell the difference between blood clots from COVID vs. from another condition/illness? MP: Sometimes there's blood information such as low platelet counts, but sometimes you can't find that out. Thank goodness it is very rare.
- Annie: Is Eye Care traveling? We haven't had them in Shishmaref in a while. MP: We're hiring new staff and optometrists and they'll be arriving in June. We expect to offer more village trips once they arrive.
- Annie: Was there any follow-ups on a secondary Village-Based Counselor? MP: We've done several calls regarding BHS in the villages due to COVID, but I'd have to check on that. Kirsten: We'll connect with our VBC and check in with our clinicians on an update on the VBC program.
- Toby: How do you test the positive cases in Nome? MP: We test our employees, due to our mandatory testing program. We test at the airport or when patients come in with symptoms to the Cough & Cold Clinic. We test in a variety of ways.