

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
May 26, 2021**

	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

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>President/CEO Angie Gorn gave the following update:</p> <p>On Monday, 5/24/21, NSHC announced we will be sending vaccinated individuals a card that is laminated, water proof. Please give us time to work on this and get it to you, once you fill out the form: (insert form here)</p> <p>3 active cases, here in Nome. 2 from last week, and 1 was just identified. Pending press release will be out soon. ;</p> <p>Monday is Memorial Day. We will not have a call on Monday. I will set up the ANTHC/ANMC lodging call on Wednesday, June 2nd.</p>
Blessing	A blessing was given by Anchorage-based Patient Advocate, Jason Harrell.
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director, Megan Mackiernan, PA-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of Alaska cases are trending downward. They released 66 cases announced yesterday. Some pockets of cases still exist in some areas of the state. - We will still work on getting vaccines administered to the public. We expect one of the vaccines to be approved for 2-11 year old’s hopefully by September.
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debra, Wales: Do you have any updates on how many of the variants are in Alaska now? MP: There’s been 15-16 of the P1 variant in the state of Alaska. NSHC had 3 of those. The remaining cases identified in Nome will be sequenced and should be released in the next couple of days on numbers of variants in the region. We haven’t had the UK (B117) or South African variant in the state as far as we are aware. Anywhere there’s a pocket of unvaccinated individuals, we expect variants to still spread. We will release any new variants in the region as we are made aware. - John, Savoonga: Angie you mentioned that NSHC would send COVID cards. My daughter was vaccinated in Fairbanks, but would she be able to still get a card from them? Angie: We’re printing these cards from NSHC directly. We can see what we can provide for her, in consultation with Tanana Chiefs Conference. Please have your daughter call me, and we can see what we can offer her. - Annie, Shishmaref: Can you please repeat the numbers in the region? MP: We have 3 current cases in the region. - Caller: Is there any response from the public or employees or tribal membership about the article released last week about the mandatory vaccine policy? Angie: Our full board of directors

meeting was in early May. Last year, NSHC implemented a mandatory flu vaccine policy to our workforce after the pandemic was underway. Through education and giving employees enough time to voluntarily consider the flu vaccine, that process went very well. A mandatory covid 19 policy has been under discussion for some time. We didn't implement a vaccine policy back in December. We wanted to make sure there was adequate supply, that enough information was out there, no adverse impacts of the vaccine and considered safe. On May 13, after much discussion and at the recommendation of our management, administrative team, and medical staff, our Board of Directors approved a mandatory Covid 19 vaccine policy that was announced to our staff on May 17. Employees have until June 14 to decide to get the vaccine. It applies to all employees, contractors, interns, volunteers, etc. If an employee doesn't get a vaccine within 30 days, they will be placed on unpaid administrative leave. Via our Employee Health Nurse, we will work on getting everyone vaccinated. Our medical director is available. If there's an employee that has a medical exemption from the Medical Director, that will be the only reason an employee isn't available. ANTHC will be moving forward with a mandatory vaccine policy, starting June 1st. Southcentral Foundation will be working on a mandatory policy. MP: 1) The Pfizer is going to be fully FDA approved (not EUA) this summer. 2) There are many health corporations and clinics that are beginning to implement mandatory vaccines. Caller: Do you think that time frame is enough? Angie: We're being patient. When we rolled out the flu vaccine, we started to talk to our work force, that a covid 19 vaccine would most likely move toward a mandatory covid vaccine as well. We've tried to give notice as much as possible. We don't want to lose employees to this. But we need to keep everyone that comes here (whether as a patient or employee) safe.

- Roy: About a month ago BSNC BOD has passed a resolution for all BSNC employees to be vaccinated. There's been some pushback, a lawsuit has been filed. We had an employee try and sue BSNC based on rights being infringed upon. The lawsuit didn't last long. COVID is very dangerous; over 530,000 have died from COVID in the US. Just to let the callers know that our regional corporation that everyone be vaccinated. That's just the way that it is. I supported the vaccination of all employees and all of the board meetings. Just want to give some more information to keep our employees and board members safe. MP: Anytime something is implemented like this is because, we gotta do what's right to our patients, employees. If anyone has any issue with getting vaccinated, they can meet with me and learn about the vaccine and process. It is good to hear the process BSNC has gone through.
- Caller: On next Monday's call, can you release what percentage of the entire corporation is vaccinated? MP: (26) All of our mid-levels and physicians are vaccinated. Over 90% of our total workforce is vaccinated.
- Caller: Can you work on making sure patient housing isn't placed in outdated lodging when traveling via medical? Angie: 27. Jason: 907-434-2844. The number of Medicaid hotel dropped a whole lot. We were finding out after the fact. That created some challenges for sure. People should call ahead and be on top of trying to reserve a Medicaid hotel. I've been working with ANMC/NSHC liaison Jackie Crisci on getting people lodging. Sometimes, when someone has

further scheduled appointments, there's an issue with lodging additional days. That's another way issues come up.

- Mina, Shishmaref: When people are traveling for medical, they need to be educated on this process for getting lodging.
- Caller: I think NSHC needs to publicize to how to confirm lodging prior to medical travel to Anchorage. That confirmation aspect can slow down the process and leave people in Anchorage with issues.
- Annie, SHH: Can you post the Eye Care village travel schedule? Kelly: We will post the village travel schedule on Monday. Shishmaref is a priority to get out there in the first week of travel.
- Glenn Steckman, City of Nome Manager: Just a reminder, Monday is Memorial Day.
- Debra: when patients travel to Nome and check into the Patient hostel, are they required to show proof of vaccination when they arrive? MP: When they get to the hostel, nobody is required to show evidence of vaccination to patient hostel housing.
- Caller: There was extra paperwork when I stayed at patient housing last time. They may ask if you're vaccinated, but we don't have any requirement of evidence of vaccination? We don't require a vaccination to be seen as a patient and travel in. The only place where a proof of vaccination is needed is the airport upon landing in Nome. If you don't have proof, then City of Nome requires a test.
- Debra: Will the local clinic call parents of children (12-15yo) for when its available? MP: The Pfizer vaccine is already approved for 12-15yo and available in all clinics. The issue we have with Wales, is making sure that a mid-level is available for administering the Pfizer vaccine. Our Wales CHAs are currently trained to administer Moderna, but not Pfizer. Debra; Is the plan to get a group of youth together, to get a midlevel out there? MP: No, we no longer worry about wasting Pfizer doses. You can call the clinic to see when the next midlevel will be out there. If someone wants a vaccine, you don't have to wait until 10 people
- Roy: What is herd immunity looking like for our region? MP: They think that if a community can get to 70% vaccinated, that's a good number (not necessarily 80%). We need to look at each community, individually. If one village is only 50% vaccinated, if the virus gets in that specific community, that virus will spread. Our region as a whole if 54% fully vaccinated (TP) and at least 59% with at least 1 dose administered. Not too far to go. Some community's total vaccination rate can be really low (35-37%) whereas other community's are higher (61%) and closer to herd immunity. Once we get the 2-11 age group, that represents 15-20% of the total region. That group, once vaccinated, should reach herd immunity.
- Mary David, Nome: If all employees in an organization (such as BSNC), can employees lessen mask mandates? If you have a business where unvaccinated individuals that can go in and out, unvaccinated need to wear masks. Some locations still require masks: nursing homes, correctional facility, stores, hospitals, clinics, airports still require masks. However, non-clinic facing places can follow NSHC
- Caller: Will NSHC offer incentives for the 12-15 age groups to get Vaccinated? Angie; we're

	<p>working on that, please give us a few days to develop how this will work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What percentage of 12-15yo have been vaccinated? MP: We'll ask our pharmacy team. - Can you give the vaccination rate percentages prior to the incentives and after? MP: The vaccination incentive programs didn't necessarily have a big bump for bumps. We can look at that. Caller: I know a lot of kids that weren't able to get vaccinated due to being too young or because their parents didn't let them. - Charlie, GLV: You mentioned another positive case in the region earlier. Is that in Nome or in the villages? MP: It's a Nome case. - Debra wanted to ask Glenn Steckman, to ask if there's any changes to the Nome mandate? Are the mandates posted in stores and public places? MP: the EOC is set to meet on the EOP which is set to expire in June. There will probably be changes. The biggest new thing, is that, CDC doesn't require masks for vaccinated individuals. It's up to businesses to decide that for themselves. Some vaccinated individuals will still wear masks after vaccines anyways to provide that extra level of protection.
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The call was adjourned at: 12:18pm.