

**COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes  
May 3, 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

\*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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified 3 cases this weekend, pending a press release. 1 on Saturday was travel-related, a resident of Nome. 2 identified yesterday in Nome.</li> <li>- Vaccination rates are still trending upward. Total vaccination rate is at 58%. NSHC is prepared once there's official approval from the FDA to vaccinate 12-15 year olds using the Pfizer vaccine.</li> </ul>
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director – Megan Mackiernan, PA-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State of Alaska cases update: Cases over the weekend seem to be trending down. 89 cases on Friday, 106 resident cases Saturday, 69 resident cases Sunday. Deaths are at 342.</li> <li>- Most of the case numbers are going up in Fairbanks and the interior. Bethel is doing a good job with less cases.</li> <li>- NSHC is going well, we didn't have cases for a few days. We had a travel related case on Saturday and Sunday's 2 cases are not sure where the COVID came from.</li> <li>- NSHC Vaccination rates: Total population vaccination is at 58%. We're hoping to get to 70-80% for herd immunity. We're really close as a region to this goal. NSHC is averaging about 10 vaccines a day (58) for the last week.</li> <li>- For vaccinating, we have the vaccine at multiple locations. The city office location isn't as effective. We're going to continue having people come in to the pharmacy and the post office.</li> </ul>
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annie, SHH: Please double check Shishmaref's vaccination rates. We've been at a steady 55% for a month now, but I know more people are getting vaccinated.</li> <li>- Jason: Is there any update on the arrival of the 12-15 vaccine? MP: We haven't heard anything yet. We're just waiting for the FDA approval, and expect it in the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>- Joanne, Wales: Do you know if Alaska Airlines is resuming 2 flights a day? Terri, VHS: It's scheduled to resume May 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>- Jolene, UNK: If a patient is traveling from the Unalakleet Sub-Region, do they have to travel through Nome? Prior to COVID they used to travel with RAVN. Angie: We have a contract under way, but we're working on that and will post what's available. We have been working with RAVN. It's a challenge to offer direct billing for the routes from UNK-ANC, and ANC-UNK. We're still working out those details and hope to have it finalized soon.</li> <li>- Roy: Do you know if the latest cases from the weekend is related to the cases at the bars from a couple of weeks ago? MP: It is not. We've had cases at the grade school and there was no further exposure or cases. We've had those cases that were related to the bars. But since then, we haven't</li> </ul>

- seen many cases related to the bars from that case. This is hopeful. We're getting close to what herd immunity might look like. It's going to be a slow movement into herd immunity. It's going to be gradual. It's probably going to be us expecting an outbreak or more cases and so far none.
- Toby: School's getting out soon. We've had a school counselor available but once school get's out, can BHS offer services to students or young kids? MP: Yes. Not every community has a VBC. They can certainly help. We have telemedicine behavioral health available at the clinic. There's services available for young kids if they need help.
  - Roy: Did the Governor's staff stop by the hospital? I know they were visiting the City of Nome regarding tourism. I believe it's regarding the cruise ships and trying to visit Nome. Angie: No they didn't, not to our knowledge.
  - Caller; Are you working with contractors who work in villages regarding COVID mandates? MP: We're in contact with some contractors who reach out to us about mandates to make sure they're following, especially for any ANMC/ANTHC related work. For any NSHC sanctioned projects, they work with us. Luckily, most contractors are vaccinated when they arrive. As for villages own projects, we don't have any oversight over those. But villages who have staff arriving for their own projects should confirm quarantine/testing/vaccination status to limit any exposure due to essential village projects this summer.
  - Mary David: Kawerak is shooting for May 24<sup>th</sup> to have our staff return to our offices. Let's say a whole floor is vaccinated. Would staff be able to mingle around and not use their masks? What's the recommendation for a work site of vaccinated staff? MP: The CDC has said that small groups (10-12 people) of vaccinated individuals can congregate without masks. But if you have anyone from the public, clients, and visitors who aren't vaccinated coming in, then you should wear masks.
  - Caller: Is it possible to share who's vaccinated? MP: NSHC can't share the vaccination status of individuals. A private business can talk to an attorney about asking their staff of their vaccination status. You can ask your staff about their vaccination status as long as it's voluntary.
  - Caller; I just saw the Nome Public School press release about the middle school? MP: One of the cases from this weekend, could possibly have been exposed at the middle school. Anyone who's a close contact has already been notified and in quarantine. [Dr. Peterson shared the Nome Public School press release.] Anyone who's a staff, student, or teachers in grades 6-8, should get tested at Cough & Cold if you have symptoms of COVID. If you aren't vaccinated, but no symptoms than you should go to the Ops building and get tested. If you are vaccinated, you can test, but the risk of exposure/illness is low. NSHC is sending nursing staff to test students, staff, etc. tomorrow (Tuesday, 5/4) and Friday. We'll see if there's any other cases. We're not expecting any, but we won't know until we test. Caller; is it community spread or travel? MP: We don't know just yet. We don't know where the case originated from. There has been travel in the last few weeks, but we don't know. Caller: What percentage of the staff at the school is vaccinated? MP: I don't know, but I've heard from NPS and BSSD that both have great vaccine percentages.
  - Debra, Wales; Which vaccine is expected to be approved for 12-15 yo? MP: Currently, we're

expecting the Pfizer to be approved soon. They've submitted their data to the FDA, but we expect Johnson & Johnson and Moderna to be approved in the future as well.

- Carolyn, Teller; I've been vaccinated for a few months, but if I travel after the 3 months, than what happens? My first dose was in January, and the second dose was in February. My 3 months will be up this month. MP: You're completely covered and immune. Your vaccination card is good. If we ever need a booster, then we'll release that. If you've contract COVID, then you'd be considered immune for 3 months. But if you're vaccinated then you should be good for traveling, etc.