

**1. COVID-19 Tribal Leadership Session Minutes
November 13, 2020**

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>
Prayer	Prayer given by Sherri Anderson
Updates	<p>Angie gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three additional positive COVID cases were identified yesterday, all residents in Nome yesterday - If it does get to the point of many Acute Care COVID admissions and rising cases - Holiday meat, “turkey’s for thanksgiving, or prime rib for Christmas” - School district Superintendents are available on the call.
Medical Staff Briefing – Dr. Mark Peterson, Medical Director	<p>Dr. Peterson gave medical staff update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska: Continue to see high numbers (400), up over 20000 cases total in Alaska. 100 people in the hospital, 96 deaths • Dunleavy emergency message yesterday (11/12/20, Alert via text) • YKHC has been seeing a large outbreak, many cases a day and hospitalizations • NSHC: 3 more Nome cases identified via the Nome travel quarantine mandate, tested on day 7 of quarantine. - NSHC response to Dunleavy: MP: Analyze and go over and limit all unnecessary medical travel until Dec. 7. Limit village to Nome medical care and travel due to limited housing capacity in Nome for those quarantining from Anchorage. Postpone unnecessary medical travel to and from Anchorage, except for absolutely critical care. - GI clinic in Nome is on schedule, for Nome patients. Village patients will be rescheduled for the next GI clinic. - Strongly consider to not travel for the holidays. Please consider delaying your holiday travel. If travel is necessary, please abide by all quarantine requirements and take it very seriously. Many of our cases have been identified on day 7.
Question and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A caller mentioned Eye Care issues, for ordering with expired eye care prescriptions. MP: We will have to look at what's available for the extension of certain prescriptions and ordering glasses/contacts. We will call Optometry to see what can be done remotely. Patient: Calling Eye Clinic has been difficult due to reduced staffing, but not been able to go through. Dr. Kapp mentioned that she won't be available to get through to their village until January. Super busy every time she does get to the village, has a long list of patients to see. Patient requests for NSHC to mconsider locum staff or increase in staff.

- Lucy Oquilluk in Teller, Alice Fitka, St. Michael: Questions about Bering Air’s policy for a negative test: Bering Air requires a negative test when you’re traveling Nome to Village. MP: Bering Air must see evidence of a test within 72 hours (via text or printed or MyHealth Patient Portal). If you are on a short day or two trip to Nome, might be easier to test in the village prior to coming to Nome. Sign up for rapid test online. Emily from SMK IRA: SMK clinic requires an appt to take the rapid test. MP: If you know you’re traveling to Nome then schedule a test prior to traveling if it will be a short trip. The following locations has tests: ER has a rapid test machine, PCC has a test that can run to the Lab, Cough & Cold Clinic. Patient: Sometimes with travel, there’s a flight delay and appt. When you’re in your appt with your provider, tell them you need a test to get on the plane. If your appt causes you to miss your flight, NSHC will house you until you can get home.
- Dr. Kulka: If you get the test in the village (good for 72 hours), may be the easiest option.
- Shishmaref patient comment: patient & escort should be tested at the same time, and make it easier for elders and patients and escorts to get tested at the same time (especially in Anchorage)
- Opik, Diomede: Wants NSHC to work with Pathfinder and the same set up to make sure the covid test rules are enforced
- Marty in Unalakleet: How prepared is NSHC for patients in the event of a surge in cases: MP: NSHC Acute Care is a 18-bed hospital facility, but can double that to 36 in the worse case scenario, and up to 50 beds, as approved by the State. YK is seeing 30-50 cases a day, while we’re seeing 3-4 a day. We’ve had 1 case hospitalized in the 8 months. At the current rate of infections in Bering Strait, we don’t expect to get to capacity. not as many people are getting as sick in the beginning with respiratory distress and needing artificial ventilation. We have 11 ventilators, but don’t expect to use them if everyone does their part. We plan on focusing on prevention, and don’t plan on getting to this point of many hospitalizations a day, with vaccinations. Kotzebue is doing okay, Dillingham doing okay, YK is difficult. Valdez doing well, The valley getting many cases a day. Prevention is the key.
- Robert in Elim: When the state comes out with the distribution plan, are we included or is it via the IHS? MP: the State vaccine program will distribute our vaccines, which is who we receive flu vaccines from. Currently, not tested or recommended in children. First wave would be for healthcare workers. Next step is those who are high risk with chronic illness and older patients. And then the general public. New vaccines will be coming out with their data soon.
- Amos in White Mtn: Has NSHC updated our travel policy for PAs? PAs have been traveling between communities and having visitors. MP: Need to have a test before they can even get to WMO. NSHC doesn’t have a requirement to test between villages, but must follow village’s mandate. WMO emergency mandate: If anyone travels into WMO from anywhere, they must quarantine for 7 days. MP: Peterson will email and let her know. She will not travel to other communities/Nome
- Sherri Anderson: Asks NSHC to share info about disposable face mask, they do include latex for those that may be allergic.

- Caller asked about the airport and stores in Nome - do they provide mass for people entering their facilities? Sherri: they offer disposable masks at Hansons' & AC, if you ask the cashier.
- Mary Davis: In Nome, is it business as usual at the hospital with regular appts. Etc. MP: Yes, still seeing outpatient needs
- Anna in Shishmaref asked if masks/face shields available for younger kids and adults? Opik has huge shipment of masks in (5000 masks) from COVID CARES act funds. MP: BSSD should be able to ship them out, check with the local school. Anna: Supposedly handed out last child face shield today and a caller asked if the schools are able to make that with the fab lab? Dr. Bolen: If the fab lab and materials are available at a school, they can continue to make them there if they'd like to, but BSSD has some available and will work on shipping out to schools.
- A caller asked if a physical proof of negative test available via a paper print out? For example, if my health isn't available via phone? Megan M: Bering Air staff should be able to text the Result line: Don't need internet, simply text with patient's name and date of birth. Pathfinder will get the same set up! NSHC is setting up an information sheet and the same set up at Pathfinder. Text result is officially manned from 9am-6pm, but is checked at least until 9pm.
- Marie Katcheak, Stebbins: Asked regarding the governor's message yesterday and wondering the exact date that three weeks will be up for limited care? MP: December 7th, but entirely based on case counts and if people are taking all of the extra precautions, may be extended if cases continue to rise.
- A caller requested NSHC to talk to GCI about connectivity, it has been in and out in Shishmaref and Teller. Angie: I will coordinate with our IS department to reach out and ask.
- Deborah in Wales: Asked about our response time in the event of a positive case: MP: NSHC staff calls admin on-call, and starts reaching out to village leadership.
- Deborah in Wales: Q for Dr. Bolen: How are the schools being cleaned? Dr. Bolen: Schools are being cleaned daily with wipes and disinfectant, and throughout the day. After hours and weekends and after an outbreak, they are cleaned with diffusers. Only used when the school is empty and their janitorial staff are fully prepared.
- Paul in Elim: When is Elim opening the school? As long as there aren't more cases, the school will open Monday, Nov. 16.