

AST COVID19 Live Facebook Town Hall 10-11am on May 1, 2020

(To view this past live event, visit our Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System page and search out videos)

- Participants from left to right
- Respondents:
 - Michelle Wollenzin, RN, Director of Clinical Services
 - Sandra Vaughn, ASTHS Chairwoman, AST Member
 - Dr. Marty Lofgren, ASTHS Medical Director
 - Dara Thorpe, ASTHS Deputy Director
 - Brad Gaylord, AST Police Chief
 - Chad Larman, AST Emergency Manager
- Moderator: Mark Rogers, ASTHS Executive Director

Questions submitted by community members followed by panel responses.

1) Do the AST Tribal Health/Executive Committee Members agree with Governor Stitt's opening of non-essential businesses? Why or why not? Ms. Vaughn/Dara

Recommended response: Governor Stitt has ordered a reopening plan as The Incident Commander for the state of Oklahoma during this National Emergency; with the safety of the tribe at the forefront of everyone's concerns, we also have to operate within the framework of the state's emergency response disaster system, which operates within a larger framework of the federal government's Incident Management System; as such when the federal and state governments order planning for reopening we have to follow suit and planning for reopening as well. Not doing so has implications upon emergency grant funding FEMA funding as well as other programs such as the paycheck Protection Program applied provided for tribal entities. As such, tribes are extremely constrained on how they can operate within this command-and-control structured framework and receive sanctioning in the form of funding from the federal government through various levels of our compliance. The reopening plan is within the structure of the federal and state government's guidelines for reopening.

2) What safety/health pre-cautions are recommended for those who choose to venture out into newly re-opened businesses, such as salons, gyms, etc.?

Recommended response: Just as with everything else with this pandemic, you have to evaluate the risk as it's associated to yourself and your immediate family; if you are a caretaker for an elderly person or people with underlying health conditions, you have to evaluate the risk of exposure by participating in these activities; you need to have an individual family plan to

address your unique situation(s) and there's no one-size-fits-all for society. If you go out in public spaces remember to wear a mask, wash your hands for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if water is not available. Try to maintain your social distance from others. Keep your hands away from your face. For other helpful tips and information please visit our AST Health System website.

3) Is there a spike in COVID-19 cases expected due to the opening of non-essential businesses?

Recommended response: As long as appropriate precautions are taken and adhered to and the data continues to show declines in the spread of COVID-19, it is hoped that there will not be any breakouts. However health professionals in general are concerned that people will get comfortable and relax in adherence to precautionary activities and there could be isolated breakouts or inadvertent spreads by people trying to go back to "normal" sooner than what they should. The decision nationally and at the state level to begin the reopening plan is the decision within the National Incident Management System framework, and although there was Health considerations factored in it, it is still uncomfortable and there's no good answer anyone has for the situation other than to continue to expand within the reopening plan as best possible but safely with precautions; all employers are taking appropriate safety precautions in reopening as part of the expanded guidelines provided from the state and federal governments for all reopening activities. Only time and history will tell whether this was a good or bad decision.

4) Is the AST Health Center prepared for any potential spike in COVID-19 cases, should that occur in the near future and if so, how?

Recommended response: We have worked within the framework of our pandemic plan from the onset. Although there was differences with the speed of the infection of this particular pandemic, and a lot of misunderstanding initially, the state and federal system has recovered and we are slowly becoming restocked and resupplied and forecasting 90 days in advance what our current expected burn rate with our new PPE personal protective equipment procedures that we have in place now for all levels of patient care in the Health System, Public Safety, Emergency Management protection for the community.

5) What are the most pressing needs as far as supplies for AST frontline workers? Do you have what you need, and if not, what specific things (and how many) are needed?

Recommended response: The most pressing needs are N95 masks, gowns, face shields, gloves, foot covers, and head coverings. We currently have quantities sufficient to cover patient care on an emergency and Urgent basis however as we expand into normal patient care, we will

need larger quantities. The ability to order and build up our supplies has been hindered by the War Powers Act and confiscation by the federal government of normal supplies to all tribal, public, and private Health Systems. Supply systems and vendors have reacted quickly and we project a normalization of supplies in the next 30 to 60 days; we are currently working on securing a 90-day supply for the expansion back to our regular service plan. The funding for this is from the assistance of the federal government via grants and other funding provided directly from IHS as part of the Congressional emergency appropriations that have been allocated to the Indian Health Service, CMS, Health and Human Services, and the CDC.

6) Can a fly or mosquito carry the virus? It's not a blood born virus, it is transmitted by droplet through the air or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your nose, eyes, mouth with your contaminated hands. Wash your hands, cover your nose/mouth when you sneeze/cough, wear a mask.

7) Will AST continue summer youth programs and if happening how will the program work this summer?

8) Are out of state tribal members given the opportunity to have virtual medical care? Unfortunately not with our state laws, a provider can only provide telehealth or visit in the state they are licensed in.

9) How are the patients being informed that they are seeing providers via telehealth? This was a message that was just left on our AST forum and AST Tribal talk FB pages. When appointments are scheduled registration clerks or the nurses are giving patients an option of telehealth/virtual visit. The patient will then receive a link to connect for the appointment. Just like the clinic appointment, patients should "log in" 15 min before the appointment. Please remember that the camera shows you as you are. So please be aware.

10) What are the entry procedures to the clinic for appointments? Procedures for when you come for appointment: You will be screened by health care team member. They will ask you questions when you drive up and will take your temperature and get your name and phone number. All patients will wait in their cars until they are called back by a health care member. The health care member will escort the patient from the parking area into the building, to their appointment. All patients must wear a mask to all appointments. Only the patients will enter the building unless the patient is a minor or they need assistance. If you have a fever or are symptomatic you will be escorted through a different door. Pharmacy is drive through only.

All appointments will be screened. No visitors or vendors allowed at this time.

11) How long does COVID19 live on surfaces? 2 hours to 5 days depending on the surface.
Please see hand out.

12) What does hand washing do versus wearing gloves, is wearing gloves the best protection?
The best option is to wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, the second option is to use hand sanitizer. Gloves are used to prevent cross contamination. If you touch a surface and then touch your face or any other surface you have cross contaminated the surfaces.

13) How long is Shawnee Clinic going to be closed? The Shawnee Clinic will be closed throughout the month of May. We will keep you updated as decisions are made regarding the reopening of the clinic.

14) Homemade masks (HMMs) are important in this time of shortages, can I wear my HMM in the facility? Yes you can wear your home made masks into the clinic for your appointments. We encourage you to do so since it is required to wear a mask into the building. We would like to thank those who have donated homemade masks to us.

COVID19 Health Info Line: 405.695.1787

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