



From the office of the Chairman

Blood Drive Planned Offering Free COVID-19 Antibody Testing for All Donors

"You can still go out and give blood. We're worried about potential blood shortages in the future. Social distancing does not have to mean social disengagement."
- Surgeon General of the United States

The coronavirus pandemic has led to a decrease in donations of blood. Josie Bingen, RN/EMT has announced a community blood drive with United Blood Services from Minot on July 1st from 2 to 6pm to be held at the MHA Energy Bldg. Josie said everyone who donates blood at the community blood drive will receive free COVID-19 antibody testing.

FREE COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTS

Josie Bingen said free antibody tests will provide blood donors with a positive or negative result in seven business days. The antibody test is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and will show if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the virus, regardless of whether they ever showed symptoms. This may not, however, mean that you have immunity.

CDC STATEMENT ON IMMUNITY

"The CDC wants to ensure that all donors are aware that this is not a diagnostic test for COVID-19 infection," the agency said in a news release. "The FDA and the CDC have both said that a positive antibody test result does not prove the individual has immunity to the virus and that research of the antibodies is still being conducted."

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing practices will be used during the blood drive. All staff will be wearing masks. Donors are encouraged to wear masks; however, they will not be provided. Donor chairs will be spaced as far apart as possible. In order to protect our team members and other donors, please do not present to donate if you are not feeling well or have a fever. Please stay home and consider donating

once you feel better.

Josie said all donated blood will be used to help patients at local hospitals. She emphasized that getting donations from people who have recovered from COVID-19 are especially important because the antibodies in their blood could help others fighting the virus.

GIFT CARDS

The Chairman's Office will be providing gift cards to all of those wearing masks or who bring their contact tracing information!

For more information, contact Josie Bingen, RN-EMT. 701-421-1732

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**

From the MHA Times



From the office of the Chairman

MHA Nation COVID-19 Task Force Sees "Success in The Numbers"

Lisa Lone Fight, M.S.

Land Resources and Environmental Sciences

The MHA Nation COVID-19 Task Force has been responsible for managing community impact and preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic. The success of the Task Force is, "in the numbers," says Incident Commander Marle Baker. "We have seen no significant rise in cases since the Task Force began its active mitigation phase. That's what we consider success," Baker continues.

STRATEGIC AND RELENTLESS

The fight against the virus has been strategic and relentless. "Planning and feedback never stopped," says the Task Force Planning Section Chief, Emily Sitting Bear. Sitting Bear explains that a tactics/planning meeting takes place every 48 hours, where the Task Force meets virtually to share updates, review the Tribe's pandemic response, and review and respond to specific communities' concerns and needs.

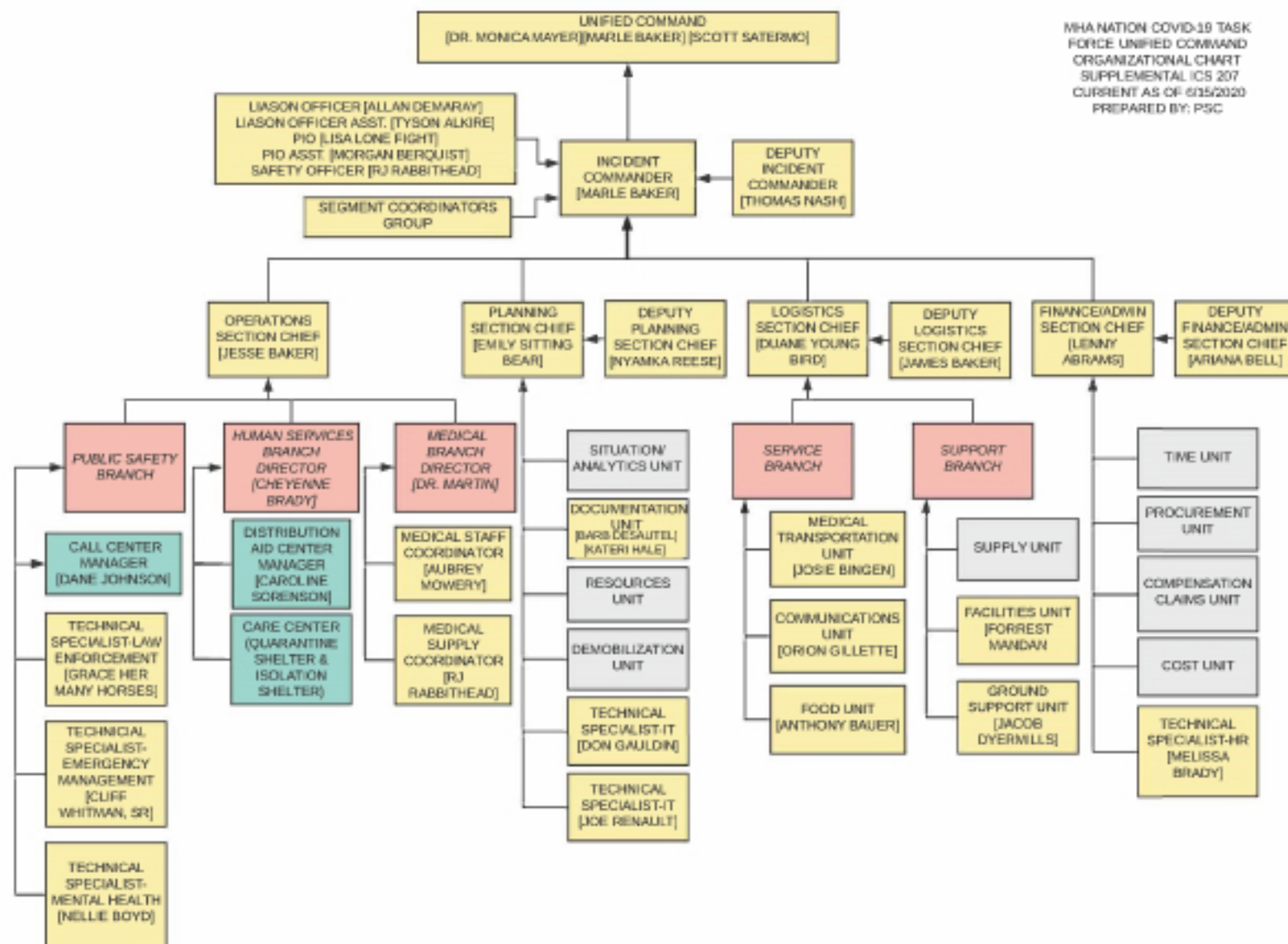
One of the primary responsibilities of the MHA Covid-19 Task Force has been to maintain contact and coordination with state, federal, and local government agencies regarding strategic planning, predictive models

and accurate data. The Task Force works directly in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and in close alignment with the Center for Disease Control (CDC); paying special attention to research and practice that focus on rural and Native American populations. "Best practices are a constantly evolving thing with this virus," says Marle Baker Incident Commander.

PROFESSIONALS GOING THE EXTRA MILE

The MHA Nation has been praised for its Task Force composition, which includes an expansive list of professionals and specialties including: An engineer, addiction counselor, research scientist, police officer, two physicians, emergency responders, RNs, EMTs, contract specialists, program directors, compliance officers, business managers, GIS experts, community planners, tribal leaders, firefighters, and IT professionals. Additionally, each segment has a representative on the task force. "We follow the FEMA model and Incident Command System (ICS) and it is very specific about roles and responsibilities," says Baker. "Everyone has to have the capacity and professional training to meet the needs of the position and the stamina and personal commitment to meet the demand

continued on page 10



continued from page 7

of months of extra duties. Most Task Force members consider a 70-hour work week to be normal since the virus began." Baker is typical of Task Force members. He holds his Task Force Commander duties in addition to his regular responsibilities as a Fire Management Officer for TAT. "That's part of what makes this Task Force unique. We are all tribal or community members, all trained professionals and most have other full-time jobs to maintain," Baker said.

A CULTURALLY FOCUSED RESPONSE

One of the areas where the Task Force has been particularly recognized, is the incorporation of a culturally-based, time sensitive community response. "This means that when a call or notification comes in, we use our knowledge of the community and community members and activate a response often within minutes," says Scott Satermo, who is one of the three leaders of the Unified Command. "We recently received a request from a Tribal member living in Bismarck alerting us that her elderly mother lived in a house affected by the virus and was unable to get food and necessities. We had members of the team there within an hour doing a full needs assessment. Food was provided immediately, and other needs were met within a day. Of course, we don't just drop things there – we continue monitor the situation and check in." Satermo says this wraparound approach has been made easier in some ways because everyone is a relative. "No one is a stranger and we are used to taking care of one another. We just make it a little more formal, systematic and efficient."

CHANGING THE COURSE OF THE VIRUS

The success of the Task Force can be seen in its results. Task Force member Dr. Anita Martin who is Elbowoods Memorial Health Clinic's (EMHC) Chief Medical Officer says, "The governor recognized EMHC [and Mountrail county] as a "hotspot" "We were receiving attention statewide as the 'New York City' of reservations. While that was not unexpected since we were a testing site, that's changed."

"I would say that our treatment, prevention, and community testing programs are a big part in changing the course of the virus spread," says Task Force member Kathy Eagle, MD, MPH-EMHC Director.

Task Force members credit a large part of their effectiveness to the early and comprehensive response by Chairman Fox, Tribal Council, and their mobilization and support of the Task Force. Most importantly, however, according to Task Force members and the TBC, was the overwhelming response, caring, and commitment of the MHA people and Nation. "The people made this possible," is a common sentiment among Task Force members and leadership.

ADAPTIVE STRATEGY AND ONGOING COMMITMENT

As the MHA Covid-19 Task Force progresses, it is balancing the needs for mobilization and preparedness with changing conditions and demand. "We may change strategy and structure, but we're not going away until the virus goes away," says Baker. "The MHA Nation currently boasts one of the slowest spread rates in the United States in an area with significant testing, and we are committed to maintaining that level of success."

"We have developed a plan where we can scale up and down in response to changes in the virus spread because as the CDC and FEMA tells us, this is just the first wave," says Tribal Chairman Mark Fox. The Chairman meets regularly with the Task Force and provides a weekly public address and update on the virus. "Our mission is not complete until everyone is vaccinated and the virus is no longer a threat to our people," he continues. "I want to congratulate the Task Force for working through weekends, evenings, and holidays to protect our elders, youth, the vulnerable, and family members. They don't get much recognition because confidentiality is critical in this type work and requires them to keep a low profile. However, they've been recognized nationally and they deserve it. Other tribes, businesses, and entities have been contacting the Task Force for our model. They've done a great job on behalf of the people and have earned our thanks and respect."

The World is Watching

International support is growing. The MHA Nation's fight for our inherent rights to our riverbed matters!

New York Times • Indian Country Today • U.S. News & World Report San Francisco Chronicle • Seattle Times • Washington Times Washington Post • Houston Chronicle • Star Tribune Yahoo! Finance Canada • San Diego Union-Tribune • Oklahoman Connecticut Post • Yahoo! News - Philippines • Bismarck Tribune The Canadian Press • Minot Daily News • Associated Press Native Business • Hastings Tribune • Industrial Equipment News Manufacturing Business Technology

Tell North Dakota politicians to do what's right—honor the MHA Nation's inherent ownership, treaty rights, long-standing federal law and precedent, and respect our Missouri Riverbed Rights.

Learn more: OurRiverOurHome.com # @MHANationi825

We Wear Masks



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