



March 23, 2020

COVID-19 Travel Update

Many of you have had questions on travel restrictions and health screenings at airports. Currently all major international airports in Alaska are still operating (Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau) and almost every other small airport is accepting flights. However, there are several villages which have privately petitioned air carrier services who bring people in to cease passenger flights except for in the case of medical emergencies. Some communities in southwest Alaska are also contemplating travel restrictions or seeking to quarantine incoming travelers.

A concern that has been raised by several residents of District 37 is the arrival of seafood processing workers and the potential they may be carrying COVID-19. Currently all seafood processing companies have contracted with a company in Anchorage to provide health screenings at Ted Stevens International Airport before a worker may get on a flight to where they're working.

The screening process is as follows:

- Team is in full respirator gloves, gown.
- ID check.
- Information on where they're going.
- Asking about any travel (level 3 CDC) in the last 14 days (write down where they've traveled, document, when they left), ask if they had known contact with a person under investigation or tested positive for COVID19.
- Take contact temperature – anything over 100.4 then second test is administered with oral thermometer.
- Asking in the last few days if they have had a fever, cough, shortness of breath.
- Ask if they have been taking anything to mitigate (Tylenol), document that. Would not be allowed to travel if they had a fever but could travel if they had a cough or runny nose.
- Ask if they had any other signs or symptoms (headaches, muscles aches, chills) – if they say no to all of that then they're cleared. If they say yes to any of that, non-clearance.

- Cannot be rescreened until symptoms have resolved.

It is important to note that the only entity with a legal authority to require health screenings at an airport is the CDC.

Last Friday the Governor put out the following “Health Alert” which is not a mandate:

Health Alert 9.1 – Out of State Travel

To prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the State of Alaska is issuing the following strong advisory:

That all Alaskans cease non-essential out of state personal, business, and medical travel now. Alaskans currently out of state are encouraged to return home now if they had plans to return to Alaska within the next 30 days.

We strongly advise that any tourist and non-essential business travel to Alaska be suspended now. We strongly recommend that visitors to Alaska return to their home communities now.

Airlines operating interstate travel are mandated to immediately post this recommendation to their customers on their webpages and at the airports in a place that is easily seen.

Airports in Alaska are mandated to prominently post all travel recommendations.

Tour operators should immediately suspend reservations for any out of state visitors.

Businesses that depend on interstate travel should immediately assess their travel needs and only move essential personnel or travel for emergency reasons. Any travelling employee is expected to self-isolate for 14 days after arrival in Alaska.

All travelers returning from a Level 3 area are mandated to self-quarantine for 14 days as previously outlined in [COVID-19 Health Mandate 004](#).

Any returning resident or worker is expected to self-quarantine for 14 days after returning to Alaska and monitor for illness. If you cannot work from home, you should not return to work until this period has passed, unless your work supports critical infrastructure (see Attachment A). If your work is a part of critical infrastructure, it is the expectation that every attempt will be made to comply with the 14-day quarantine or that appropriate steps are taken to protect workers, the public and spread of COVID-19.

Any visitor to Alaska is expected to self-isolate for 14 days after arriving in Alaska, monitor for illness, and follow appropriate social distancing protocols while in Alaska.

Health Alert 9.2 – In-State Alaska Travel

To prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the State of Alaska is issuing the following strong advisory:

That all Alaskans cease any non-essential in-state long distance personal, business, or medical travel, with specific heightened concern for travel to remote areas with limited medical resources.

We strongly recommend that non-residents cease any non-essential personal, business, or medical long-distance travel within Alaska with specific heightened concern for travel to remote areas with limited medical resources.

All air, road and maritime services operating in Alaska are mandated to post on the web and in their terminals, these travel recommendations.

All airports, ports, and bus terminals are mandated to prominently post these travel recommendations.

Any tour operator depending on clients moving long distances across Alaska should strongly consider suspending operations.

We expect any traveler who leaves a community with known cases of COVID-19 to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival to their destination community and monitor for symptoms of illness. Following that period, appropriate social distancing should be followed.

The sacrifice of all Alaskans during this public health emergency is notable. While social distancing is one arm of slowing the spread of COVID-19, minimizing travel is an equally important part of slowing the spread of disease. We are aware of the impact these health advisories have, specifically on our travel industry, already hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The state is committed to continue to work with businesses and employees impacted by the pandemic and will continue to work to mitigate these impacts. The safety and health of all Alaskans is our primary concern.

This health advisory does not apply to medical, personal, or business emergencies. For the latest State of Alaska official COVID-19 updates, please go to <http://www.coronavirus.alaska.gov>.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Laura Stidolph in my office at 907-465-2839.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Edgman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Office Phone: 907-465-4451 or toll free at 800-898-445