COVID-19 OUTBREAK
HEALTH ORDER NO. 8
Intrastate Travel

Issued: **January 14, 2021**
Effective: **January 15, 2021 at 12:00AM**

By: Governor Mike Dunleavy
Commissioner Adam Crum Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, I issued a Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration due to the imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak. That emergency declaration was extended by the Legislature, and expired on November 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, I declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Alaska, including over 17,000 confirmed cases, and 84 deaths from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2020, Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Commissioner Adam Crum certified that an outbreak of the COVID-19 virus is occurring throughout Alaska, as evidenced by the current significant and widespread community transmission of the virus, including significant positive testing rates, and record daily numbers of new cases;

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2021, Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum certified that Alaska is currently experiencing a severe statewide outbreak of COVID-19 and will continue to do so, without immediate intervention, which includes the distribution of vaccines;

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2021, Alaska has had over 47,000 confirmed cases and 222 deaths, and in January 2021, a new strain of the SARS-CoV-2 was identified as being more contagious than the original strain, and is spreading in the United States;

WHEREAS, to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and to respond to the effects of the outbreak, I am issuing this Order based on my authority under the Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration issued on January 14, 2021, and made effective on January 15, 2021;

The purpose of COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No. 8, Intrastate Travel is to provide clear guidance and requirements for travel between communities located off the Road System or the Alaska Marine Highway System.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, Governor of the State of Alaska, pursuant to the authority vested in me under AS 26.23.020, am hereby issuing the following order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

The State of Alaska is issuing COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No. 8, Intrastate Travel. This Order goes into effect at 12:00 a.m. January 15, 2021.

A. Community Restrictions and Critical Infrastructure Access –

1. Local communities may enact travel restrictions, but cannot prevent individuals traveling for a Critical Personal Need or the conduct of an Essential Service/Critical Infrastructure installation, maintenance, or repair. Other rules for Communities and/or Local Emergency Ordinances are as follows:

    a. Communities may not enact protective measures that prevent, delay, or limit emergency travel by Law Enforcement Officers, healthcare workers, or personnel from the Office of Children's Services.

    b. Communities may not prevent local residents from returning home, but may enact protective measures to mitigate potential introduction/spread of the virus, such as requiring a pre-travel test, a period of strict social distancing after arrival, or bracketed testing before and after that period. Travelers who choose not to be tested may be required to conduct a full 14-day self-quarantine in their home upon their return, along with all other family members sharing the home.

    c. Communities may not prevent Critical Infrastructure Workers (CI) from traveling or commencing work immediately upon arrival, but may enact protective measures to mitigate potential introduction of the virus and limit social mixing, such as requiring a pre-travel test, requiring CI workers to stay masked and socially distant from community residents, and limiting access to facilities that are not part of the CI workers' worksite or lodging.

        i. Critical Infrastructure Workers traveling to small communities in support of *emergency requirements* must coordinate access with the municipal or tribal government representatives of the community if the situation does not allow time for pre-travel testing, such as a power outage, communications failure, damage to infrastructure, or other situation that requires emergency travel.

    d. Communities may not require Commercial Fishing Vessels, Seafood Harvesters, or Seafood Processing workers to follow any testing or quarantine procedures that are in excess of any State Health Order; however, they may enact protective measures to mitigate potential spread of the virus and limit social mixing, such as

requiring seafood workers to stay masked and socially distant from community residents, and limiting access and/or patronage hours to local facilities.

e. Communities should not prevent the travel of work crews engaged in non-essential construction or repair projects, and are encouraged to negotiate access requirements with both the company involved in construction and the business or agency that is sponsoring or contracting the construction.

f. Communities may not prevent individuals from traveling to conduct subsistence hunting or fishing, but may enact protective measures to mitigate potential introduction of the virus and limit social mixing, such as requiring subsistence hunters and fishers to stay masked and socially distant from community residents, and limiting access to facilities other than their lodging.

g. Communities may not prevent individuals traveling specifically to pursue a Critical Personal Need from traveling to the community, but may enact protective measures to mitigate potential spread of the virus.

Section B – Testing Requirements

1. All travel from a community on the Road System or the Alaska Marine Highway System:

   a. **Less than or equal to 72 hours** – If the traveler is in a community on the Road System or the Alaska Marine Highway System for less than or equal to 72 hours:
      i. Recommend testing for SARS-CoV-2 using a molecular test 5 days after arrival at final destination.
      ii. Follow strict social distancing until negative test results are received.
      iii. If the traveler does not get a molecular test for SARS-CoV-2, they must follow strict social distancing for 14 days at final destination.

   b. **Greater than 72 hours** – If the traveler is in a community on the Road System or the Alaska Marine Highway System for greater than 72 hours:
      i. Get a molecular test for SARS-CoV-2 within 72 hours prior to travel to a community off the Road System or the Alaska Marine Highway System.
      ii. The traveler should not commence travel until a negative test result is received.
      iii. If return travel cannot be delayed until the test result is available, the traveler must follow strict social distancing until they receive a negative result.
      iv. Five days after arrival at final destination, recommend testing for SARS-CoV-2 using a molecular test, and follow strict social distancing until negative test results are received.
      v. If the traveler does not get a molecular test for SARS-CoV-2, they must follow strict social distancing for 14 days at their final destination.

c. Anyone who is currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus ***must not*** travel until they are cleared from isolation by a medical professional.

d. Asymptomatic people who have recovered from a documented SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 90 days are exempt from travel testing.

Definitions for purposes of this Health Order:

1. "Road System" is defined as any community connected by a road to the Steese, Elliot, Dalton, Seward, Parks, Klondike, Richardson, Sterling, Glenn, Haines, or Top of the World Highways.

2. "Alaska Marine Highway" is defined as any community served by the Alaska Marine Highway System or the Inter-Island Ferry System.
   a. All travelers on Alaska Marine Highway System vessels will follow the travel testing requirements.

3. "Critical Personal Needs" is defined as those needs that are critical to meeting a person's individual or family needs. Those needs include buying, selling, or delivering groceries and home goods; obtaining fuel for vehicles or residential needs; transporting family members for out-of-home care, essential health needs, or for purposes of child custody exchanges (to include child travelers); receiving essential health care; providing essential health care to a family member; obtaining other important goods; engaging in subsistence activities; pursuing formal (primary, secondary or collegiate) education or educational research; applying for a job; traveling for voting; and the inspection and maintenance of personal property.

4. "Critical Infrastructure Workforce" is defined in the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) "Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce." https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf

5. Strict Social Distancing:
   i. Strict social distancing is allowed after you have one negative test result from a test taken within 72 hours of departure or on arrival into Alaska.
   ii. You may be in an outdoor public place, but you must remain six feet away from anyone not in your immediate household, and you must wear a face covering. You may arrange curbside shopping or have food delivery.
   iii. You cannot enter restaurants, bars, gyms, community centers, sporting facilities (i.e., ice rinks, gymnasiums, and sports domes), office buildings, and school or daycare facilities. Do not participate in any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals, or other gatherings.
   iv. This 14-day window can be shortened by receiving a negative result from an optional second molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 taken between five and 14 days after arrival into Alaska.

This Order shall have the power of law and shall supersede all conflicting laws during the duration of the Order. This Order is in effect for the duration of the Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration, effective January 15, 2021 at 12:00 a.m. This Order may be amended, and additional Orders may be issued to address mitigation efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 virus.