City of Wainwright

Declaration of Emergency Order #06-2021
in response to COVID-19 Outbreak  1-11-21
Hunkering Down / Face Coverings / Travel

WHEREAS, the spread of the respiratory disease COVID-19 has been designated a Public Health Emergency by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Governor of the State of Alaska and the North Slope Borough; and

WHEREAS, in response to the imminent threat of an outbreak of COVID-19, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services has issued a series Health Mandates and Health Alerts and provided guidelines on its operations necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2020, the Commissioner of Department of Health and Social Services certified that an outbreak of COVID-19 is occurring in 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; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, the Governor of the State of Alaska issued a Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration and a series of Public Health Orders including Health Order No. 8 addressing Intrastate Travel effective December 16, 2020, which shall remain in effect until rescinded; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Wainwright first issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency on March 21, 2020, and has issued updated Declarations through #05-20 on September 14, 2020, supporting the State of Alaska Health Mandates and issuing local guidelines in order to more effectively contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the State of Alaska, on the North Slope, in Utqiagvik and the growing number of positive cases in the City of Wainwright are a threat to the health and safety of our community and a coordinated community response is needed,

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Wainwright hereby issue this amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency in the City of Wainwright #06-2021, effective from January 11, 2021, until further notice.

Declaration of Emergency Order #06-2021 – January 11, 2021

In response to the outbreak of positive cases of COVID-19 in the City of Wainwright, the protective measures listed below are strongly recommended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

Hunkering Down:

The City strongly recommends that all persons stay at home, except to buy, sell or deliver groceries or other critical goods, to receive or provide health care, and to get fresh air without contacting others. The only exceptions are for those working on critical infrastructure and providing essential services pursuant to State of Alaska Health Order #5 and as described in the Definitions listed below in this Order. This provision does not apply to outdoor, car or properly-spaced and ventilated indoor religious services.

Masks or Face Coverings covering your nose and mouth when in public:

All persons in Wainwright must wear a mask or cloth face covering over their noses and mouths when in communal public spaces or when interacting with anyone outside their households, subject to the exceptions listed below and should maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from any person outside their household,
indoors or outdoors, whenever possible. Employers are responsible for making sure employees have access to and wear masks or cloth face coverings when in direct contact with the public or other employees.

**Travel Requirements -- Arriving in Wainwright by Land, Air or Sea from Communities Off or On the Road System**

Under State of Alaska COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No. 8, effective December 16, 2020, Local Communities may enact travel restrictions and protective measures to mitigate potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, but cannot prevent individuals for traveling for a Critical Personal Need, including Subsistence Activities, or the conduct of an Essential Service/Critical Infrastructure installation, maintenance or repair (see Definitions on page 3)

In response to the outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Wainwright, the City Council has issued the following strong recommendations covering ALL TRAVEL into Wainwright, whether it is from Off the Road System or On the Road System, effective from January 11, 2021 until further notice. Please follow these recommendations, which are more stringent than the State’s requirements.

For **ALL TRAVEL**, whether you are traveling within the North Slope Borough, from other communities Off the Road System or from communities On the Road System:

1. **Take COVID-19 PCR Test when returning to Wainwright:**
   a. **EITHER Test outside of Wainwright before you come back to Wainwright:**
      - Travelers are encouraged to take the COVID-19 PCR test available at the COVID Testing Station near the airport or Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Uqiaqvik or in their other point of origin within 72 hours of arriving in Wainwright.
      - Travelers and ALL household members need to Self-Quarantine and follow social distancing measures until negative results are received.
   b. **OR Test in Wainwright upon arriving in Wainwright if you have not tested before.**
      - Travelers MUST take a COVID-19 PCR Test at the Health Clinic as soon as possible, during business hours, after arriving in Wainwright. Please call the Clinic to make an appointment.
      - Traveler and ALL household members need to Self-Quarantine and follow social distancing measures until negative results are received

2. **Take Second COVID-19 PCR Test 7-10 days after your First Test.** Travelers are strongly encouraged to take a second test 7-10 days after their first test (the test that was taken either within 72 hours before or as soon as possible after their arrival in Wainwright), in order to capture the virus after a possible incubation period.

3. **If you do not want other members of your household to Self-Quarantine,** it is highly recommended that you make arrangements to have your family stay with other family members ahead of time, to avoid putting your household in quarantine too.

4. **If you do not wish to take a COVID-19 Test:** A traveler or resident who is returning to Wainwright, who does not wish to take a COVID-19 test, must minimize all contact while traveling and must Self-Quarantine for 14 days when they return to their declared destination of Wainwright. EVERYONE in the household must Self-Quarantine for 14 days also.

5. If a traveler is asymptomatic and has recovered from a documented SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 90 days, they are exempt from travel testing. **Documentation must be provided.**

6. **Anyone who is currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus MUST NOT travel** until they are cleared from isolation by a medical professional. (Alaska COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No. 8)

**Travelers are NOT ALLOWED in any public places while Self-Quarantining, until negative test results are received or until completion of the full 14 day Self-Quarantine period required if you choose not to take a COVID-19 test.**

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Definitions:

Self-Quarantine as defined in City of Wainwright Emergency Order 06-2021 is more stringent than the “Strict Social Distancing” in the State of Alaska COVID-19 Health Order No. 8 and should be followed until you have received a negative test result after traveling or until you complete the 14 day Self-Quarantine if you do not wish to take a COVID-19 PCR test. You must also self-quarantine if you have been directly exposed to someone who has tested Positive for COVID-19.

1. Remain in your home. Do not visit any public spaces, including grocery stores, post office school, church, child care, etc. or any other group activities.
2. You may leave your designated quarantine location only for medical emergencies or to seek medical care. BEFORE going to the Clinic, call them at 763-2714 or 763-2814.
3. Work: Contact your employer to let them know your status. If you are working in an essential service they will provide their rules for avoiding COVID-19 transmission.
4. Do not have visitors in your home.
5. Follow State of Alaska and CDC Social Distancing guidelines to avoid spread of the virus within the home and the community:
   a. Social Distancing - to the extent possible, maintain 3-6 feet of separation from other people in your home or outdoors.
   b. Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, especially after sneezing, coughing, blowing your nose. (20 seconds is the Happy Birthday song twice)
   c. Do not touch your face, nose, mouth, eyes. If you must touch your face use a clean tissue.
   d. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or into a tissue (dispose of right away)
   e. Clean and disinfect your home, especially frequently touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cell phones
   f. Avoid sharing towels, utensils, etc.
   g. Monitor yourself and your family members for COVID-19 symptoms. If you experience COVID-19 Symptoms, call the Clinic at 763-2714 or 763-2814 for an appointment and avoid close contact with others.

Per State of Alaska COVID-19 Health Order No.8, effective December 16, 2020:

Local communities may enact travel restrictions and protective measures to mitigate potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, but cannot prevent individuals for traveling for a Critical Personal Need or the conduct of an Essential Service/Critical Infrastructure installation, maintenance or repair as defined below.

1. Critical Personal Needs are 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 for 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; the inspection and maintenance of personal property.
2. Critical Infrastructure Workforce is defined in the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce”
3. Essential Services personnel include Emergency First Responders, Law Enforcement or Office of Children’s Services personnel. Local protective measures may not prevent, delay or limit emergency travel by Essential Services Personnel. (Alaska COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No.8)
4. Non-Essential Work Crews: 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. (Alaska COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No.8)
5. Critical Infrastructure and Essential Services employees are subject to the Protective Plan filed by their employers with the State and the City of Wainwright. These plans cover the measures taken to ensure that the employee has a negative test for COVID-19 or 14 days Self-Quarantine before arriving in Wainwright and includes requirements for monitoring health and minimizing contact with the community. (Alaska COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No.5).
Copies of employers’ Community Protection Plans are retained at the City Office.

6. Wainwright Local Employers may have additional restrictions for their employees’ travel, testing, workplace and community COVID-19 precautions.

7. Mask and Face Covering Recommendations do not apply to children under two (2) years of age; any child under the age of twelve (12) unless a parent or caregiver actively supervises their use; those with impaired hearing or speech or those immediately communicating with them; those with breathing difficulties; those with mental impediments to compliance; those in police or judicial custody; anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance; those who are performing an activity that cannot be safely conducted while wearing a mask (such as equipment operator with risk of tangling the mask); and those receiving medical care in a medical facility which may adopt its own rules.

City Operations:

In response to the increased level of concern for the community, City Facilities and Programs will operate as shown below, effective December 28, 2020. The Mayor will issue updates when changes occur.

1. The City Office will be closed to the public.
2. Youth Program and After-School Recreation Activities are suspended until further notice.
3. Homemaker In-Home Assistance to elders is suspended until further notice.
4. Christmas Games and Eskimo Dance are on hold until further notice.

Please protect our elders and community members by following the guidelines for social distancing, wearing facemasks in public, not touching your faces, washing your hands frequently, regularly disinfecting commonly used objects, monitoring yourself and your family for symptoms.

If you experience COVID-19 Symptoms, call the Clinic at 763-2714 or 763-2814 for an appointment and avoid close contact with others.

If you have questions about the City’s response to COVID-19 please contact Office Manager Ronnie Morales at 907-925-2007 or at officemanager@cityofwainwright.com.

EFFECTIVE the 11th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:

Jimmie F. Kagak, Acting Mayor

Veronica Morales, Office Manager for City Clerk