

March 31, 2020

Hello, fellow North Slope residents. I will occasionally be using my personal Facebook page as an additional way to reach as many constituents as possible during this pandemic crisis. Please visit our website and check your email accounts for further updates and information: [www.north-slope.org](http://www.north-slope.org)

As of a few hours ago, BP has confirmed a worker at Prudhoe Bay has tested positive for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). BP is following procedures and protocols to minimize the risk of COVID19 and to ensure the safety of our people and their workers. They are reducing all non-essential activity on the slope. The person is quarantined, along with some of his co-workers. The person has had no contact with any North Slope residents and flew up recently on a private charter. Again, we are working directly with BP to ensure that all safety measures and protections are in place. Media inquiries or specific questions must be referred to BP.

Our collective efforts have helped us respond to COVID-19 challenges as they arise, and we are also mindful that new developments, guidelines, and recommendations are constantly emerging, which is why we've created an incident command team for coronavirus updates across a range of relevant topics. As you all know, circumstances regarding this virus change on a rapid and daily basis

Health-related questions must continue to be referred to ASNA or your preferred health care provider locally or off-slope while traveling or in general. Of course, all of our local emergency response teams and hospital protocols are in place and ready, but while these services are in high demand, we ask that you use them like our elders taught us, wisely, and by priority. I may be your Mayor, but I'm also a whaling captain, and we feed our elders and children before anyone else. We don't harvest whales for credit or accolades; we do it to feed and provide for ALL of our residents in need. The bounty of a successful harvest not only feeds our bodies but our culture and soul. The spring whaling season this year will be more important than ever.

Across Alaska and the world, everyone is adjusting to the "new normal." So many of our day-to-day lives and routines have changed suddenly and insignificant rapid ways. We've watched with growing concern as the pandemic has spread around the world, across the United States, and recently to Alaska. We've seen healthcare systems respond

and adapt. As of this morning, about 3100 people in the U.S. have died, including three Alaskan residents. We pray for them and their families as these fellow citizens make their heavenly journey home.

Due to Borough and State protocols, we are blessed to report that so far, we have not had a resident test positive in any of our North Slope communities. Still, we must remain aware and vigilant to the fact we are not immune or exempt to this evil virus that knows no boundaries, ethnic groups, cultures, countries, boroughs, or the old or young, nor religion or our respected faiths and beliefs.

As your Mayor and fellow resident, I want to say I genuinely believe better days are ahead. We are all one State, one Nation, one community, and we can help each other, but my office is here to help. This is the time to do what our region and country does best, unite in a time of crises to beat this evil virus. Please make no mistake about it, my administration, your administration, and our Borough will continue to do everything within its power and authority to protect our region as this global pandemic makes its way further North.

This extraordinary situation with COVID-19 coronavirus requires applying everything we are as a people, government and a culture— leadership, loyalty, integrity, humility, excellence, respect for each other, and, of course, selfless service – to navigate daily challenges. During this moment of uncertainty, I understand the stress and anxiety many may feel. And yet, I have great faith in our community and your Government. We will get through this together. Turn and rely on your family and faith. Use modern technology that's available for checking in on friends and family, church services, and even temporary distractions using music or TV. iPhones, Smart tablets, and desktop computers are very encouraged, along with group chats and inspirational messaging.

As we continue to monitor the best ways to respond to the unprecedented impact of this historic pandemic, I am sincerely grateful for everyone coming together to address our highest priorities. As the Bible will guide you, this not a time to alarm, scare, point blame, or search for or give credit. That's not what has sustained our region and people for thousands of years. Our spirit of collaboration, culture, working hard, and compassion for all has been what's sustained us since time immemorial. That same spirit continues to be on full display as we work diligently to assist employees, residents,

and college and school district students who have been impacted by our current state of affairs.

In addition to this, we've been working directly with Alaska Airlines to help institute a direct flight from Anchorage to Barrow in order to accommodate a more thorough health screening than required by the State's Health Mandate. We also did this so our partners in the industry can continue to do their essential work without endangering our communities or their facilities and workers. We are grateful for this corporate gesture that allows travelers entry to our communities while minimizing the risk of COVID-19 coronavirus infection. Again, this agreement will have no effect on industry travel and NSB business or essential freight and transportation of perishable items or medical supplies and employees that continue to go through the State and Borough mandated screening process. Thank you, Alaska Airlines and RAVN, for your help during these stressful times.

After our emergency order, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of Alaska issued Health Mandate 012: Alaska Small Community Emergency Travel Order. This Travel Order Specifies the Duties of Air Carriers and other Travel related Businesses outside of our Municipality. The State Health Mandate also allows more restrictive travel restrictions to be adopted by our Municipality, which should provide adequate protection for our residents without prohibiting travel waiver is no longer required. However, all persons entering the North Slope Borough by air through Anchorage must undergo pre-flight health screening, preferably conducted by Beacon Occupational Health and Safety Services. This must be evidenced by a certificate to be produced upon request by a Borough or airline representative. Persons without such a certificate will not be prevented from boarding the aircraft but may be fined up to \$500 after arrival, per North Slope Borough Municipal Code section 2.32.050. Especially if they knowingly put fellow citizens at risk.

Again, this is a test of faith and our love for each other. The only thing that has changed is the North Slope Borough waiver requirement, other than that, to continue to stop the spread of this disease, all travelers will be heavily restricted from coming into the Borough by AIR, LAND, AND SEA, for at least the next 2-4 weeks per State, Federal, Tribal, and North Slope Borough law and jurisdiction. There will be a small number of exceptions for medical personnel and those servicing critical infrastructure or those who were possibly stranded while traveling between mandates that get their health

screening. Please watch out for one another during these trying times and follow the CDC guidelines during this pandemic.

We encourage our residents to do what they can to keep life moving in this new but temporary normal. This starts first and foremost with abiding by statewide and municipal mandates and respecting the roles of those tasked with protecting us. Stay home. Stay healthy, can you make some tutto soup and leave it on the doorstep of an elder or single parents home? Yes! Can you break trail for spring whaling? Yes! Can you pick up groceries? Yes, but while following the CDC guidelines on social distancing and hand and face washing. The quicker we stop the spread of this virus, the faster Borough residents can get back to work and school. We will get through this, and will do so by staying healthy, safe, and united.

Again, as your Mayor, I will continue to do everything within my authority to protect our region while working simultaneously with ASNA, the Governor, our Congressional delegation, Airlines, our Assembly, tribal entities, churches, and the CDC during this crisis. Although what we are undergoing now is certainly not entirely new to us, it has presented new challenges. Still, it has also reminded me of our communities' dedication, resilience, and the brave men and women and their willingness to serve and protect. If you see our police officers, fire crews, search and rescue staff, and our doctors and nurses, thank them while maintaining social distancing. With gratitude for all they are doing and great appreciation for the privilege I have of being your Mayor, thank you for your patience and understanding as we get through this together. God bless you all.