



# CITY OF UTQIAGVIK

*"Farthest North Incorporated City"*

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## **CITY OF UTQIAGVIK PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY ORDER #E0-04 IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

ISSUED BY THE MAYOR OF CITY OF UTQIAGVIK ("CITY") PURSUANT TO CITY OF UTQIAGVIK ORDINANCE 2.12.100.

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that still threatens to overwhelm the health system of the entire State of Alaska. The City now has its first reported COVID-19 resident. Furthermore, the City has limited health resources, and we must continue to take steps to slow and contain the threat; such steps require coordinated community action. This Emergency Order #EO-04 is issued to preserve the health and safety of our community.

At the beginning of this pandemic, not much was known about the transmission of COVID-19, nor the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing its spread. Due to the need to limit medical masks for medical use and the uncertainty about the usefulness of alternatives, early recommendations did not advise face coverings for the general public. But the scientific and medical communities now recommend the use of cloth facing coverings, as recent studies indicate masks can greatly help reduce the spread of the virus. This is because a significant number of individuals with COVID-19 are capable of transmitting the disease to others before (or without) showing any symptoms, through everyday activities such as talking in close quarters. Based on this information, the CDC now recommends wearing cloth face masks coverings in indoor public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. In line with this recommendation, the City puts forth this additional order to preserve the health and safety of the community of Utqiagvik.

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO ME BY THE CITY COUNCIL UNDER ORDINANCE #10-2020, I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020, TO PRESERVE LIFE IN AND ADJACENT TO THE CITY. THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL 11:59 P.M., ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, OR TO RESCIND SUCH EMERGENCY REGULATIONS IF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ABATES.

### **A. The City Strongly Recommends Residents to Hunker Down**

1. The City strongly recommends that all City residents hunker down and shelter in place as much as possible in order to minimize any spread of COVID-19.



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2. Residents should stay home and work from home as much as possible, 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.

## **B. The City Strongly Recommends Residents to Wear Masks or Cloth Face Coverings**

1. On the limited occasions when residents leave their home, residents are strongly encouraged to wear masks or cloth face coverings over their noses and mouths when they are indoor in public settings or communal spaces outside the home, and should maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from any person outside their household whenever possible. This Order is subject to the conditions and exceptions stated below.
2. The indoor settings included in this Order include, but are not limited to, the public and communal spaces within the following:
  - A. Grocery stores, pharmacies, and all other retail stores.
  - B. Restaurants and cafes, including food preparation, carry-out, and delivery operations. There is a limited exception for customers while they are actively eating or drinking in those settings.
  - C. Taxis, ride share services, or other forms of public transportation when non-household passengers are present.
  - D. Personal care facilities, child-care facilities, and communal areas of offices where people from multiple households are present.
  - E. Elevators and indoor communal spaces in other buildings.
3. Employers are responsible to make sure employees who are present in the workplace have access to and wear masks or cloth face coverings when in direct contact with customers, members of the public, or other employees. Masks are not required when the only direct contact is between members of the same household or when employees are not within six feet of others. Businesses are permitted to refuse service to any individual not willing to abide by this Order.
4. As mandated by the State of Alaska's Reopen Alaska Responsibly Phase III/IV Guidance (<https://covid19.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/05212020-Phase-III-IV-Guidance.pdf>), all businesses should assist individuals with personal mitigation strategies including:



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- A. Opportunities for frequent hand washing;
  - B. Maintaining opportunities for 6-foot distancing between all non-family members;
  - C. Encourage face covering/masks by the public, and require face coverings/masks by employees as set forth in this Order (subject to the exceptions stated below);
  - D. Screening for people who are ill and limiting entrance to those who are healthy;
  - E. Regular cleaning and extra attention to high touch surfaces; and
  - F. Special accommodations for those at higher risk to help minimize their risk.
5. This Order does not apply to the following categories of people or activities:
- A. Any child under the age of 2 years or who may have a risk of suffocation;
  - B. Any child under the age of 12 years unless a parent or caregiver actively supervises their use;
  - C. Any child in a day care setting, although such settings may provide their own requirement for use for children age 2 years old or older;
  - D. Any individual for whom wearing a mask or cloth face covering would be contrary to his or her health or safety because a medical condition or medical health condition, and any individual unable to tolerate a mask due to a physical or mental disability;
  - E. Individuals who are speech impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing, or individuals communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, where facial or mouth movements are an integral part of communication;
  - F. Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
  - G. Individuals who are exercising, if mask wearing would interfere with their breathing;
  - H. Individuals who are incarcerated, in police custody, or inside a courtroom; these individuals should follow guidance particular to their location or institution;



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- I. Individuals performing an activity that cannot be safely conducted while wearing a mask (for example, a driver experiencing foggy glasses, an equipment operator using heavy equipment with a risk of tangling the mask); and
  - J. Musicians, presenters, ministers, and others communicating to an audience or being recorded, for the duration of their presentation/practice/performance where mask usage impairs communication, and so long as safe physical distancing is maintained.
  - K. Social gatherings in homes with immediate family members.
6. If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition or disability as described above, this Order does not require them to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition or disability. Business may wish to consider accommodating such individuals through curbside or delivery service or by allowing the individuals inside without a mask if doing so will not place others at risk.
7. Employers will not be subject to fines based on non-compliance by customers so long as there is a clearly posted sign informing customers that they are required to wear face coverings. Brief removal of a face covering, such as is necessary to eat, drink, or scratch an itch does not constitute a violation of this Order (although hand washing/sanitizing is recommended after such activities). Additionally, violation of this Order does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it.
- C. The City Strongly Recommends that Travelers Arriving in the City Obtain a COVID-19 Test at the Airport or Self-Quarantine for 14 Days**
1. The Arctic Slope Native Association ("ASNA") provides free COVID-19 testing to all travelers who arrive at the City's Wiley Post-Will Rogers Memorial Airport ("Airport").
  2. The City strongly recommends that all persons arriving in the City from outside the City obtain a COVID-19 test from ASNA at the Airport upon arrival, and that they self-quarantine while waiting for the negative results.
  3. If a person arriving in the City from outside the City does not wish to obtain a COVID-19 test from ASNA at the Airport upon arrival, the City strongly recommends that the person self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days.
  4. The following persons are exempt from the City's testing recommendations set forth in Sections 2 and 3 above:



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- A. Persons identified by the State of Alaska in the Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order dated April 10, 2020 whose travel to the City originated from elsewhere in Alaska.
- B. Persons with Critical Personal Needs as identified in the State of Alaska Health Mandate 18 dated June 5, 2020 who would be prevented from traveling due to the testing recommendations set forth in Sections 2 and 3 above.
- 5. In addition to the Airport, COVID-19 tests are available at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital.
- 6. Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 should immediately self-quarantine and monitor for signs of sickness in accordance with CDC procedures.

DATED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2020.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

FANNIE MITIKTAUN SUVLU, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LOYLA T. LEAVITT, CITY CLERK

