

Expiration of North Slope Borough Declaration of Emergency regarding Covid-19 coronavirus.

To the residences of the North Slope:

As vaccines continue to be deployed and rates of coronavirus decline in our communities, we are entering the phase of personal responsibility. As you may know, the Declaration of Emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic was issued on March 18, 2020, and that the North Slope Borough Assembly confirmed expired March 31, 2021.

We thank the Health Care workers, Emergency & Essential Personnel, and Public Health Nurses for helping us through this time, especially during the highest rates on the North Slope Borough, reaching up to 155 cases.

The combination of vaccines, continued research about coronavirus, and our faith in the Lord have helped us to this point.

Even with the vaccine and now variants the course of the covid-19 pandemic over the next few weeks and months is unknown and levels of stress, anxiety and fear are evolving on a daily basis. In this unprecedented situation we each have a professional and humanitarian responsibility to be civil and show respect and kindness for others at all times.

Especially in our outlying villages. Extreme caution must be taken when traveling in and out of these communities. Love and respect each other and protect those who need it most.

We all stepped up. We stayed home to protect and care for our elders, our young children, and our disabled or high-risk individuals.

Getting vaccinated is just one step. We must also continue to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and follow our health care provider's recommendations.

Wash your hands, wear masks at appropriate times, limit unnecessary travel, watch your symptoms and be your brother's keeper.

I encourage you to get vaccinated. Above all, please encourage and support your neighbors, especially the sick, the lonely, our youth, and those in need of a friend and comforting words.

We are strong, and we will continue to get through this together.