

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor*

### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**January 15, 2021 Utqiagvik, Alaska:** First, I pray and have faith that you and your loved ones are safe and well. The North Slope Borough Hunker Down Order 10-2020 has expired as of midnight last night and is as a result lifted. This order had been in effect since September 2020 and has been an effective tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 on the North Slope. It has allowed us to place great emphasis on how important it is for every one of us to remain personally committed to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Though the Hunker-down order has expired, do not let your guard down. It is imperative that we continue to adhere to guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Alaska, North Slope Borough, and your local City and Tribal Governments. These guidelines have been in place since the onset of this virus- they include; washing your hands, maintaining a social distance of 6 feet, wearing a mask in public, limiting unnecessary travel and limiting social gatherings. These are the measures we have adapted to, and are the practices we now recognize as the new normal. It is an expectation that we practice these measures and that we each continue to do our part in helping to stop the spread of this virus. You can visit our website [www.north-slope.org](http://www.north-slope.org) to find more information on the CDC, State, and Local guidelines.

It is indeed encouraging news that the vaccine is now available and is currently being administered throughout our communities. While we are making progress in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine, we still need to continue to follow Covid 19 safety guidelines as long as the threat of this virus remains. I encourage residents to contact North Slope Borough Public Health Nursing (PHN) at (907) 852.0270 or Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH) at (907) 852.4611, or your local Clinic to schedule your vaccination. Please know that you can seek information from these medical entities if you have any questions regarding the vaccine.

Our residents have shown time and again, a great capacity to care for each other in challenging situations, and I know you will respond with compassion to meet the needs of this moment. Remember, do not let your guard down. By following these guidelines, we can work together to protect our elders, families, and communities; Limit social gatherings. Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Watch your distance. Limit unnecessary travel; if you have to leave the North Slope for essential travel, you need to follow these guidelines at all times, if not, you are putting your neighbors at risk, especially in

our smallest most close-knit communities. Get COVID-19 tested before traveling, and quarantine while awaiting test results. Quarantine if you are COVID-19 positive. Follow your employer's mitigation protocol to reduce density and increase physical distancing, disinfecting, mask-wearing and hand washing in the workplace. Our community's leadership have worked hard to implement safety measures for residents and employees. Let's work together to successfully mitigate the spread of this virus.

I look forward to the unique commitment and effort every resident provides to our community, and what we will accomplish together. Protect the ones you love by protecting yourself and remember to always take care of those who need it most.

Quyanaqpak!

Mayor Harry K. Brower, Jr.