



CITY OF UNALASKA

43 Raven Way • P. O. Box 610
Unalaska, Alaska 99685

www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

CONTACT:

Marjie Veeder, City Clerk
Public Information Officer
Tel 907.581.1251

Email: mveeder@ci.unalaska.ak.us

NEWS RELEASE

April 3, 2020, 1:00 pm, News Release no. 23

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: High.

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus / COVID-19 on the island.

Patients tested by IFHS	9
Confirmed Negative Tests	6
Confirmed Positive Tests	0
Pending Test Results	3

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are 147 confirmed cases in the state as of yesterday.

UNALASKA COVID-19 MANDATE VIOLATION HOTLINE 359-1323: All people in Alaska are expected to comply with the Governor's Mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect themselves and others, and to help stop the spread of coronavirus. People violating the mandates may be arrested or cited and charged with Class A or B Misdemeanor. However, Unalaska law enforcement's goal is education, not enforcement. Police action is extremely undesirable and we hope to educate people who are violating the Governor's Mandates in order to change behavior. Please report any violations to the Unalaska Public Safety Hotline at 359-1323 or email Sgt. Kevin Wood at kwood@ci.unalaska.ak.us. Investigations will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS: As reported on March 27, the seafood industry in Unalaska has been responsible and proactive in responding to the coronavirus threat in order to protect their employees and the community, and to prevent the spread of coronavirus. All seafood processing companies in Unalaska are participating in AFISH - Alaska Fishing Industry Safety & Health Committee. Attached is an open letter to the community from a coalition of six fishery trade associations.

UNALASKA CITY SCHOOLS: For parents/guardians of students who want to receive text message updates from the school district, Text Y or Yes to short code 67587. Then, call the school at 581-1222 to make sure the school has your current cell phone number. Call the school at 581-1222 or 581-3979 with any questions.

DR. ZINK'S PRESENTATION: Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anne Zink, has provided an excellent presentation on coronavirus and related issues. Access the PDF version of her presentation on the DHSS website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/HumanCoV/SOA_04022020_AlaskaHealthCarePresentation.pdf

HOMEMADE FACEMASKS:

- The CDC has not yet recommended the use of facemasks for people who are not ill to protect against respiratory illnesses.
- Facemasks should definitely be used by people who have COVID-19 symptoms.
- There is much debate whether wearing a mask is beneficial for those who might be COVID-19 positive but have no symptoms.
- Our team also feels that wearing a facemask helps people remember not to touch their own face and reduces respiratory droplet reach.
- Based on a national shortage of masks including N95 and surgical masks, a homemade mask made with thickly woven material is a reasonable choice and is advocated by Alaska's Dr. Anne Zink.
- There are many patterns available online for making a homemade mask. Here is one option: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.cnbc.com/amp/2020/04/02/make-your-own-face-mask-during-coronavirus-pandemic-expert-approved-guide-on-how.html>

ROAD CLOSURE: Starting today, at the request of Unisea, the City is closing Salmon Way through the Unisea complex to both pedestrians and vehicles. The purpose of this closure is to prevent unauthorized visitors at Unisea to limit possible coronavirus contamination, and to keep track of their own employees leaving the facility for the same reason. Salmon Way will be closed from the intersection of Salmon Way and Pacesetter Way to the Museum. There will be check stations manned by Unisea security staff and people with no legitimate reason to visit Unisea will be asked to take an alternate route using Airport Beach Road. See map on following page.

Salmon Way Closure through Unisea Complex



Next Update – Monday, April 6, 2020

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An open letter to the Unalaska community regarding COVID-19.

Dear Unalaska Community:

Along with the rest of the nation and the world, the seafood industry of Unalaska has been coping with the fast-paced turn of events in the face of the national health pandemic created by the exponential spread of the coronavirus. Like you, we are very concerned about what the coronavirus pandemic means to our families, neighbors, and livelihoods in Unalaska and other Alaskan coastal communities, and the Alaska seafood system overall, both in the short and long term.

Key to our focus is the health and safety of all of our partner communities, including Unalaska; locations where many of our employees and their families work and also live. The safety of the residents of Unalaska is of the utmost concern.

Seafood processing and fishing vessel companies are submitting plans to the State of Alaska in accordance with Health Mandates 10 and 12.¹ These company plans are informed by medical experts and consultants. They detail processes companies are putting in place to best achieve compliance with CDC guidelines, avoid the spread of COVID-19, and minimize risk to community residents.

As our individual member companies develop response plans², their goal is to keep healthy people healthy. This means implementing screening protocols for incoming employees, detection and quarantine protocols to identify and contain any suspected case of COVID-19, new cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitation standards, and best practice for distancing standards. Trade associations are also advocating for access to FDA approved rapid point of care testing for remote Alaskan fishing communities to assist with early and accurate detection.

Our member companies also have been participating in a seafood industry workgroup for several weeks that was formed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak called the Alaska Fishing Industry

¹ For examples of the State of Alaska's requirement for Alaska Critical Industries COVID-19 Worker Mitigation Plans see: <https://ready.alaska.gov/Covid19-WorkerMitigationPlan>.

² For Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, that trade association is developing an umbrella response plan for their membership in addition to some member companies developing their own plan.

Safety & Health Committee (AFISH Committee).³ This committee includes a broad coalition of industry participants, health practitioners, and community leaders. Subcommittees and task force groups are organized across multiple functional topics and between participating regions and locations.

There are well over 150 participants in the AFISH Committee, including leadership from the Iliuliuk Family and Health Services clinic in Unalaska, all working diligently to gather and share best practices in response to COVID-19 and to develop guidance protocols for both vessels and onshore processors. Collaboration is also occurring with medical risk management companies that specialize in commercial maritime and remote worksites.

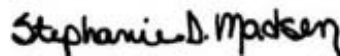
Most urgently, member companies and trade associations are working to help ensure that the Unalaska health care system is equipped to meet the needs of the community. In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to closely monitor the situation, share information, improve our plans, and continue to advocate for the needs of Unalaska.

We recognize the considerable stress and pressure that the current situation has placed upon the community. There is a great deal of uncertainty. What we do know is we are dedicated to doing our part to keep Unalaska and Alaska safe. It is an ongoing effort to update protocols and develop plans to address this new threat, and we take it very seriously. We are committed to working with each other, community leaders in all of the locations in which we operate, and the State of Alaska to get through this together.

Signed:



Chris Barrows, President
Pacific Seafood Processors Association



Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director
At-sea Processors Association



Brent Paine, Executive Director
United Catcher Boats



Chris Woodley, Executive Director
Groundfish Forum



Chad See, Executive Director
Freezer Longline Coalition



Jamie Goen, Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

³ The purpose of the Alaska Fishing Industry Safety & Health Committee is to bring together our fishing and fish processing companies, our communities, our medical advisors, and our public health partners for the common goal of protecting the health and welfare of our communities, our fishers, and our seafood workers from emerging infectious disease threats and safety concerns.