



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

April 6, 2020, 2:30 pm, News Release no. 25

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: High.

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Unalaska / Dutch Harbor. The test from the individual found deceased over the weekend was also negative for coronavirus, and that test is included in these counts:

Patients tested by IFHS	13
Confirmed Negative Tests	10
Confirmed Positive Tests	0
Pending Test Results	3

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: As of today, April 6, 2020, there are 191 confirmed cases in the state.

STAY AT HOME & SOCIAL DISTANCING versus QUARANTINE: There may be confusion about the differences between "stay at home" & "social distancing" versus "quarantine".

Stay at Home & Social Distancing: Our Governor has mandated that everyone is to stay at home and observe social distancing unless engaged in critical jobs.

1. Everyone is to stay at home, except to:
 - a. work in certain critical jobs
 - b. buy, sell or deliver groceries or other important goods
 - c. receive health care (call your provider first)
 - d. get fresh air and exercise, maintaining six feet distance between you and non-household members
2. On the limited occasions when individuals leave home, they should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person outside their household, whenever possible
3. Practice recommended personal protection measures (regular hand washing, cover coughs and sneezes, sanitizing frequently touched surfaces, etc.)

Quarantine: 14-day quarantine should be observed by people in these categories:

1. Everyone coming into the state from other locations (as mandated by the Governor)
2. People asked to self-quarantine because of COVID symptoms
3. People exposed to a known COVID-positive individual
4. People waiting for a COVID test result
5. People with a positive COVID test result until symptoms resolve

Rules for quarantine:

1. Go directly to your quarantine site
2. Leave only for medical emergencies or to seek medical care
3. Do not visit public places, including grocery store
4. Do not allow visitors
5. If other people live in quarantine location, maintain six foot social distancing

Arriving residents and workers in self-quarantine should work from home, unless you work in critical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure businesses are required to take special protective measures and are required to submit their plans and protocols to the state outlining how they will prevent the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger the lives of the their employees and the communities in which they operate.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOBBY CLOSURE: In order to protect our first responders, the lobby at the Department of Public Safety is closed to the public. For those who visit the building, there is an intercom in the vestibule to communicate with dispatchers. The best way to contact Public Safety is by telephone. Non-emergency callers, please telephone 581-1233; emergency callers, please use 911.

CLOTH FACEMASKS: Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies. This is because people who have no symptoms may be infected and are capable of transmitting the virus to others in close proximity through speaking, coughing or sneezing. Please remember the best way to avoid becoming infected is through social distancing, frequent hand-washing, and disinfecting high-touch surfaces. Facemasks are just one more tool to help minimize transmission. Because there is a nationwide shortage of facemasks, the state recommends we make your own and there are many online resources. The full text of the Health Alert is attached. The following measures are highly recommended for all Alaskans:

- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).
- Make sure the face covering covers both the nose and mouth.
- Do not remove the face covering until you return home.
- When removing the face covering, avoid touching the front of the face covering (because it may be contaminated). Remove it by grasping the ear loops, ties, or bands and immediately discard or place in a designated container for laundering.
- *Wash your hands immediately* after removing the face covering and before touching anything else.
- Wash face coverings in hot, soapy water between uses.
- Do not wear N-95 or surgical masks; these are needed by health care workers and first responders.
- Do not rely on face coverings as the primary way to prevent COVID-19 transmission, and be careful to avoid developing a false sense of security through the use of face coverings. Continue to follow social distancing measures, including maintaining at least six feet between yourself and others, staying at home, avoiding touching your face, and washing your hands frequently.

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THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

****COVID-19 HEALTH ALERT****

Issued April 3, 2020

By: Commissioner Adam Crum, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

Health Alert 010 – Recommendations Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings

Scientific evidence available to date indicates that asymptomatic and presymptomatic shedding of the virus that causes COVID-19 is occurring. This means that people who have no symptoms whatsoever may be infected with the virus and capable of transmitting the virus to others when interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing. This heightens the need for community-wide implementation of control measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among people who are not experiencing symptoms of illness.

The primary ways to do this are through social distancing, frequent hand-washing, and disinfecting high-touch surfaces. Another tool that may help to minimize transmission while people are around others outside of their household is the use of face coverings. Because we are experiencing a nationwide shortage of medical supplies, including facemasks, we recommend that Alaskans make their own face coverings and wear them in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) -- especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. This recommendation aligns with current national guidance: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

The following measures are highly recommended for all Alaskans:

- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).
- Make sure the face covering covers both the nose and mouth.
- Do not remove the face covering until you return home.
- When removing the face covering, avoid touching the front of the face covering (because it may be contaminated). Remove it by grasping the ear loops, ties, or bands and immediately discard or place in a designated container for laundering.
- *Wash your hands immediately* after removing the face covering and before touching anything else.
- Wash face coverings in hot, soapy water between uses.
- Do not wear N-95 or surgical masks; these are needed by health care workers and first responders.
- Do not rely on face coverings as the primary way to prevent COVID-19 transmission, and be careful to avoid developing a false sense of security through the use of face coverings. Continue to follow social

distancing measures, including maintaining at least six feet between yourself and others, staying at home, avoiding touching your face, and washing your hands frequently.

What is a cloth face covering?

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

How do I make a homemade face coverings?

Cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost. There are a number of instructional websites and videos that people can refer to for making face coverings; two such videos are available at <https://youtu.be/VgHrnS6n4iA> and <https://youtu.be/1r2C1zGUHbU>

How well do cloth face coverings work to prevent spread of COVID-19?

There is limited evidence available on how well cloth face coverings help reduce COVID-19 transmission. Their primary role is to reduce the release of respiratory droplets into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including people who have COVID-19 but have no symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing and washing hands and staying home when ill, but they may be helpful when combined with these primary interventions.

How should I care for a cloth face covering?

Wash your cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily. Have a bag or bin to keep cloth face coverings in until they can be laundered with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face. Discard cloth face coverings that:

- No longer cover the nose and mouth
- Have stretched out or damaged ties or straps
- Cannot stay on the face
- Have holes or tears in the fabric

This is not a mandate.
State of Alaska COVID-10 Health Alert #010