



CITY OF UNALASKA

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NEWS RELEASE

March 12, 2020, 2:00 pm, News Release no. 2

Coronavirus COVID-19

The City of Unalaska is heading up a coordinated effort to prepare for and provide information to our community and industry partners about the coronavirus known as COVID-19.

In response to the Governor's Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency yesterday, the City stood up our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide a framework for preparedness, coordinated communications and to encourage everyone to reduce their risk of infection. In addition to City personnel, representatives of Iliuliuk Family & Health Services Clinic and the Unalaska School District are participating in the EOC.

City and Clinic personnel are also members of the Fisheries Infectious Disease Working Group, which includes representatives of the fishing and seafood processing industries here in Unalaska. The working group's goals include health and safety for communities and ports of call affected by the fishing industry, and to coordinate efforts to prevent the spread of the disease.

KUCB will host a live radio call-in show tomorrow, Friday, March 13, 2020, at 5:00 pm with guests Dr. Murray Buttner and IFHS Clinic CEO Melanee Tiura on the topic of COVID-19 and local protection and preparedness efforts. Please call in to 581-1888 or email your questions to news@kucb.org.

The community can expect 2:00 pm daily updates from the City's Public Information Officer.

Even though there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Alaska as of today, it is very likely that outbreaks will occur. Because COVID-19 is a new disease in humans, we do not have existing immunity. Transmission of the virus can occur before the onset of symptoms, meaning infected people can inadvertently transmit the virus to others. The virus can cause severe disease including pneumonia and death, especially in older individuals; those with immune disorders; or serious underlying health conditions such as lung disease, heart disease or diabetes.

To protect your health and the health of others, if you are experiencing respiratory or flu-like symptoms, **please telephone the local clinic at 581-1202 before visiting** so that appropriate measures can be taken.

To help prevent the spread of diseases like COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available (minimum 60% alcohol)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Consistently clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care; all household members should self-quarantine and minimize contact with others
- If symptomatic, wear a mask when around others, including visiting the clinic
- Get a flu shot if you haven't already as flu season extends through April

For further information can be found:

- CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/COVID19
- State of Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services – <http://coronavirus.alaska.gov>
- Call the State information line 211 for non-clinical questions
- City of Unalaska – www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/coronavirus-covid-19

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