



CITY OF UNALASKA

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Unalaska, Alaska 99685

www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/coronavirus-covid-19

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NEWS RELEASE

March 15, 2020, 12:30 pm, News Release no. 5 *Coronavirus COVID-19*

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: Low

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: No change; awaiting results on one test for COVID-19. The tested individual is self-isolating.

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: No change; update expected Monday, March 16. The State and the CDC are not updating published counts over the weekend.

CITY FACILITY CLOSURES: Beginning Monday, March 16
Unalaska City Schools
Aquatic Center
Community Center (PCR)
Unalaska Public Library

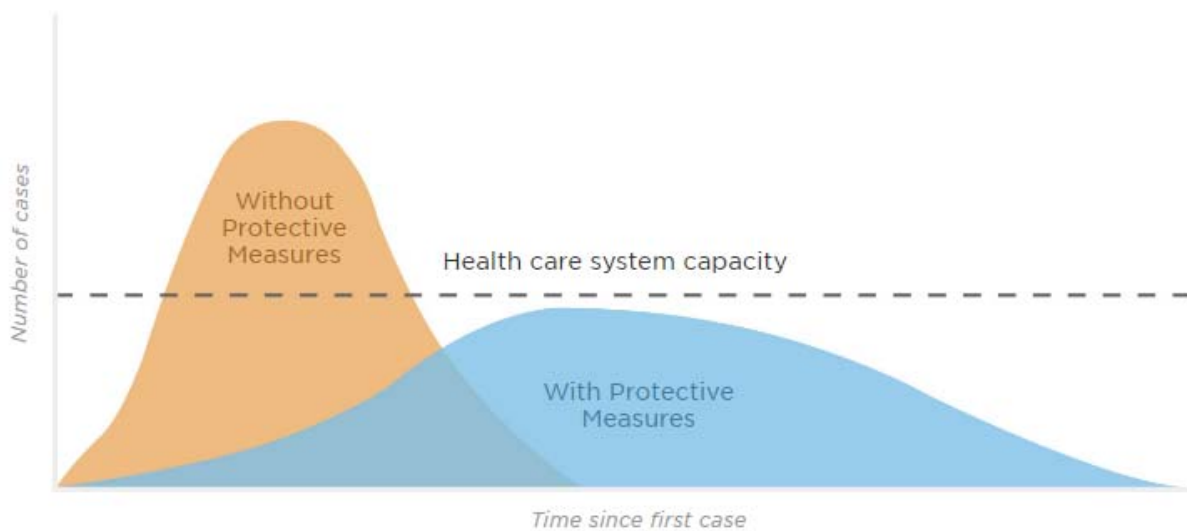
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY: Following national and state declarations of emergency, Unalaska's Mayor issued a local emergency declaration (copy attached) in order to provide the City Manager authority to take actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus in our community.

STEPS TO PROTECT: The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Because the virus is spread primarily person-to-person, protective measures like closing schools and public places are taken to limit contact between people so that the spread of disease can be reduced. We all need to pitch in and try to prevent cases in our families and in our community with these actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use 60% alcohol content hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away and then wash your hands

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- 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
 - Call the clinic before coming in (581-1202)
- Get a flu shot if you haven't already as flu season extends through April

Studies prove that social distancing measures work to slow the spread of illness. This graph shows a high number and quick spread of cases if no protective measures are taken (the brown curve). The blue curve shows a reduced number of cases over a longer time period as a result of protective measures being taken. The goal is to "flatten the curve" and not overwhelm the capacity of our health care system to care for large numbers of sick people.



We recognize that the disruption of our daily lives is real and significant, but the potential life-saving benefits are just as real and significant.

Please consult these resources for information:

- CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/COVID19
- State of Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services – <http://coronavirus.alaska.gov>
- Dial 211 - the State of Alaska information line for non-clinical questions
- City of Unalaska – www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/coronavirus-covid-19
- Call the City of Unalaska public safety recorded message line for daily updates: 581-6080

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CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

A DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT AND SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19 THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF UNALASKA

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the COVID-19 virus as a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and which poses a significant public health risk; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide a framework for coordinated communications, preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, a proactive approach taken by individuals and communities to slow the rate of infection will reduce the negative impact on our health care system.

NOW THEREFORE, AN EMERGENCY IS HEREBY DECLARED BY THE MAYOR OF UNALASKA:

1. In accordance with Unalaska Municipal Code, Section 2.96.030, the Mayor hereby declares the coronavirus threat and impact a public health emergency.
2. The City Manager is authorized to take necessary actions, in accordance with Chapter 2.96 of the Unalaska Municipal Code, to prepare and position our resources in order to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus throughout the City of Unalaska.
3. This declaration is effective until midnight on March 22, 2020. The Unalaska City Council may act to ratify and extend the period of emergency.

ISSUED this 15th day of March 2020.


Vincent M. Tutiakoff Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:


Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk

