

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2021-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY WIDE COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS TO BE WORN IN BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm the City of Unalaska health system and the economy of our community, endangering the lives and wellbeing of our citizens if gone unmanaged; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Mayor Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. declared a local emergency in the City of Unalaska, authorizing the City Manager to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 through the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-16, declaring a local emergency to remain in effect for so long as the declaration of a Public Health Disaster in the State of Alaska Remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-71, extending the local emergency declaration through June 30, 2021, to allow the City to continue to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 in the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2021, Governor Dunleavy issued four Health Advisories with guidance and recommendations on general safety and best practices, international and interstate travel (modified April 26, 2021), intrastate travel (modified April 26, 2021), and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Adam Crum, pursuant to and in accordance with the authority granted by the Alaska State Legislature in House Bill 76, Chapter No. 2, SLA 2021, declared a Public Health Emergency effective at 12:02 a.m. on May 1, 2021, which shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the federal public health emergency issued under Section 319 of the Public Health Services Act expires, whichever is sooner; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2021, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2021-47, extending the local emergency declaration through December 31, 2021, to allow the City to continue to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 in the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, local health officials have advised that protective measures are beneficial given Unalaska's remoteness, lack of road access to the mainland; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has specifically recommended communities with limited health care infrastructure or high-risk populations may consider more restrictive protective measures than the State; and

WHEREAS, as of August 16, 2021, there were 77,343 (residents and non-residents) cumulative known COVID-19 cases in the state, including travel-related cases in geographically isolated and remote communities; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2021, Unalaska's Local Risk Level was changed to Medium in accordance with Unalaska's COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan; and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2021, Unalaska Local Risk Level was moved to High in accordance with the Emergency Response Plan; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare to the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall have the same effect as a rule issued by the City Manager pursuant to Unalaska Code of Ordinances § 2.96.040; and

WHEREAS, the Aleutians West Census Area is at 60% fully vaccinated and 73% with at least one dose of the vaccine.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. State Health Advisories. Everyone in the City of Unalaska (the City) is encouraged to follow current Health Advisories issued by the State of Alaska related to COVID-19.

2. Face Coverings. All customers and visitors of businesses and organizations that are open and operating are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth to provide additional protection for employees and customers. Additionally, employees and volunteers of open businesses and organizations are required to wear face coverings when interacting with customers and visitors. Face coverings may be temporarily removed as necessary and incidental to utilizing the business or service. A business owner or operator may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear a face covering in violation of the business's policy. Children under the age of two are exempt from the face covering requirement.

The City encourages anyone that is feeling ill to stay home from work and public facing businesses to ensure that Unalaska remains healthy throughout the year.

3. Reserved.

4. Traveler Quarantine. A person traveling into the City by vessel or airplane, from another community or port, is encouraged to self-quarantine for 10 days upon arriving at their destination. A quarantine period of 7 days is recommended for those travelers with a negative PCR test result obtained on days 6 or 7 of quarantine. No quarantine is necessary for travelers who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and who have recovered, as long as no new symptoms develop. No quarantine is necessary for travelers who have been fully vaccinated for at least 14 days prior to the date of travel.

People traveling for critical business purposes should follow their approved plan according to State Health Advisory No. 4.

5. Essential Services/Critical Infrastructure Safety Plans and Protocols. Businesses identified as “essential services” or as “critical infrastructure” that are recommended to submit plans or protocols to the State under Health Advisory No. 4 or its appendices should submit COVID-19 plans directly to the City if they are operating in Unalaska. The plans should be in a format substantially similar to that recommended by State Health Advisory No. 4. Such businesses may submit their plans, protocols, or relevant notifications to the City by email to COVID19PLANS@ci.unalaska.ak.us.

6. Business COVID-19 Protection Measures and Protocols. All businesses and organizations which are open to members of the public at a physical location within the City are encouraged to post “COVID-19 Protection Measures and Procedures” on all entrances to and exits from the business. The measures should address sanitation and physical distancing approaches taken by the business or organization and any masking requirements of the business or organization.

7. Marine Tourism. Marine tourism includes travel to Unalaska for non-essential purposes by state ferry, a cruise ship of any kind, or private vessel. Marine tourism passengers and providers are required to adhere to resolutions, ordinances, orders of the City Manager, or any other local mandates related to public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local requirements are in addition to any laws, regulations, agreements or plans that apply to travelers, vessels, or businesses through the State of Alaska, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or the US Department of Homeland Security.

8. Reserved.

9. Effective Date; Expiration. This resolution shall be effective at noon on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, and expires at noon on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. The City Council may extend it as necessary, or the City Manager may extend it or amend it pursuant to the emergency management powers under Unalaska Code of Ordinances § 2.96, and Resolutions 2020-71 and 2021-47. This resolution repeals and replaces any other inconsistent resolution or ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on August 24, 2021.



Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk

