

CITY OF UNALASKA  
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2021-59

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL SETTING OUT COMMUNITY WIDE  
COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES

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 throughout 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SLA 2021, declared a Public Health Emergency effective at 12:02 a.m. on May 1, 2021, which shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the federal public health emergency issued under Section 319 of the Public Health Services Act expires, whichever is sooner; and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 and 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 September 1, 2021, there are 89,345 cumulative known COVID-19 cases statewide; and

WHEREAS, as of September 1, 2021, there were 30 known active community COVID-19 cases in Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, the City's Emergency Response Plan was modified on September 1, 2021, after careful consideration and consultation with medical professionals and other subject matter experts; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2021, Unalaska's Local Risk Level remained High in accordance with the updated Emergency Response Plan; and was reduced to Moderate on September 7, 2021.

WHEREAS, as of September 1, 2021, the Aleutians West Census Area is at 61% of residents 12 and older fully vaccinated and 73% of residents 12 and older have at least one dose of the vaccine; and

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

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.
  - a. For individuals, as outlined in State Health Advisory Nos. 1-3, this includes practicing social distancing and good hygiene, staying at home if sick, isolating if tested positive for COVID-19, testing before and after travel, quarantining after travel if unvaccinated, and not traveling if currently COVID-19 positive.
  - b. People traveling for critical business purposes should follow their employer's approved plan according to State Health Advisory No. 4.
  - c. Businesses identified as "essential services" or "critical infrastructure" that are recommended to submit plans or protocols to the State of Alaska under Health Advisory No. 4 or its appendices are encouraged to submit COVID-19 plans directly to the City if 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 of Unalaska by email to [COVID19PLANS@ci.unalaska.ak.us](mailto:COVID19PLANS@ci.unalaska.ak.us).
2. **Face Covering Requirement.** To help reduce the community spread of COVID-19 and to protect customers, visitors, workers and volunteers of businesses and organizations, individuals shall wear face coverings in certain situations, with limited exemptions, as outlined below. A 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 face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand.
  - a. Individuals are required to wear face coverings in the following situations:

- i. Employees or volunteers interacting in-person with any member of the public, customer or visitor;
  - ii. Customers or visitors of any business or organization open to the public;
  - iii. While obtaining services in a healthcare facility;
  - iv. Working in or walking through indoor common areas, such as hallways, stairways, and elevators;
  - v. In any room or enclosed area of a business or organization where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present and when unable to physically distance; or
  - vi. When driving or riding in a taxi or shuttle service.
- b. The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:
- i. Persons younger than two years old;
  - ii. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
  - iii. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
  - iv. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service, such as medical services; or
  - v. Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking.
- c. Business owners or operators shall post signage requiring face coverings at building entrances or vehicle doors or windows. A business owner or operator may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear a face covering as required by this resolution.

**3. Reserved.**

**4. 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.


**5. Penalties.** Violation of this resolution is punishable as a misdemeanor under Unalaska Code of Ordinances § 2.96.090 and is a Public Nuisance, subject to the remedies in Unalaska Code of Ordinances, Title 11, Chapter 8, including prosecution as a minor offense.

**6. Effective Date; Expiration.** This resolution shall be effective at noon on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, and expires at noon on Wednesday, September 15, 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 September 7, 2021.

  
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Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Marjie Veeder, CMC  
City Clerk

