

Frequently Asked Questions

See also the CDC's general [COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus FAQ](#).

What is a novel coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the [coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans](#) and cause mild illness, like the common cold. A diagnosis with coronavirus 229E, NL63, OC43, or HKU1 is not the same as a COVID-19 diagnosis. Patients with COVID-19 will be evaluated and cared for differently than patients with common coronavirus diagnosis.

What is the source of the virus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people, and others, such as canine and feline coronaviruses, only infect animals. Rarely, animal coronaviruses that infect animals have emerged to infect people and can spread between people. This is suspected to have occurred for the virus that causes COVID-19. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) are two other examples of coronaviruses that originated from animals and then spread to people. More information about the source and spread of COVID-19 is available on the [Situation Summary: Source and Spread of the Virus](#).

Frequently Asked Questions:

Updated March 25, 2020

1. Why did we issue this emergency order?

These public health measures were taken to preserve public safety and welfare of Northwest Arctic Borough residents against COVID-19. These closures are consistent with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. Many other cities and states have taken similar actions to “flatten the curve” and prevent the spread of this disease.

2. How long will this order be in effect?

This order went into effect at 5:00pm on Thursday, March 19 and will expire at 11:59pm on Tuesday, March 31.

3. Does this include the City of Kotzebue and the villages?

Yes, this applies to the entire Northwest Arctic Borough.

4. Who does this apply to?

This emergency order applies to all restaurants, food and beverage stands, other establishments serving food or beverages, entertainment facilities, and gyms within the Borough.

5. Can I go inside to pick up my food?

People may go inside to pick food up.

6. What qualifies as an entertainment facility?

A facility that provides continuous indoor recreation or entertainment activities. This includes Boys & Girls Clubs, recreation centers, bingo parlors, performing arts centers, and gyms.

7. What qualifies as a gym?

A gym is a facility primarily featuring equipment for exercise and other active physical fitness conditioning or recreational sports, such as swimming, skating, racquet sports, aerobic dance, and yoga.

8. I have questions and concerns. Who should I contact?

Call the Maniilaq Hot Line at: 1-833-442-7015.

9. Where can I go for small business support, as these closures will impact my business?

We recognize that in addition to a public health emergency, COVID-19 is creating a national economic emergency that is felt most immediately by small businesses and workers. We are examining what tools are available at a local level to provide relief, in addition to working with state and federal partners to ensure that additional federal assistance comes directly to businesses and workers.

Federal resources available at this time:

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

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APPLY: Businesses and non-profits can apply online by visiting <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

HELP: Counselors are available to help if you need assistance completing the loan application. Please visit the following link to find a counselor in your region: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/find/>

MORE INFO: SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339)
disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

IRS: Coronavirus Tax Relief

The IRS has set up a special section to help taxpayers and businesses affected by COVID-19. The page will be updated as new programs are made available.