Northwest Arctic Borough

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NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH
PROCLAMATION OF ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ORDER
ORDER EO-05
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

ISSUED BY THE MAYOR OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH PURSUANT TO NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH CODE 12.16.060.

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm our health system, endangering the lives and wellbeing of our residents. We can take steps to slow and contain the threat, but those steps require coordinated community action and self responsibility. It is up to each and every Borough resident to follow this order, village mandates, State Health Mandates, and CDC guidance to keep our region safe. Violating these requirements will endanger lives. This order is put forward to preserve the health and safety of our region while ensuring that vital goods and services continue to be available.

I HEREBY PROCLAM THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL 10:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE ALL CONFLICTING LAWS, EXCEPT THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE'S, DURING THIS EMERGENCY UNLESS OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY LAW OR CHARTER. THE BOROUGH'S AREAWIDE JURISDICTION FOR EMERGENCY MANDATES DOES NOT INCLUDE KOTZEBUE (NABC 1.08.010(B)(6). RESIDENTS MUST FOLLOW THE CITY'S CURRENT EMERGENCY ORDER FOR KOTZEBUE.

1. Everyone currently in the Northwest Arctic Borough must stay at home as much as possible, except to work in certain critical jobs identified in NWAB EO-02; to buy, sell, or deliver necessary groceries or other important goods; to receive or provide necessary health care; and to conduct necessary subsistence activities while maintaining social distancing requirements. On the limited occasions when individuals leave home, they must maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person outside their household. Individuals must wear masks and practice recommended hygiene, including regular hand washing and hand sanitization. A Borough-wide curfew will be in place from 12:01 A.M. until 6:00 A.M. Only those reporting from certain critical jobs, listed below, will be exempt.

   • Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Section, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practical (and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation).

2. All non-critical/non-essential personal travel within the Borough shall be curtailed.
3. Until mandatory testing for Kotzebue-bound travelers is conducted at Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage, all travelers entering the Borough through Kotzebue must complete travel questionnaires and submit to COVID-19 testing administered by Public Health Nurses from Maniilaq Health Center, and await results of that testing before leaving the Wien Memorial Airport in Kotzebue to travel within Kotzebue or to another village. If awaiting test results, travelers must self-isolate or self-quarantine to limit potential exposure. Travelers testing positive for COVID-19 must follow quarantine instructions from Public Health Nurses. This requirement will be mandated and enforced as resources are available. Travelers who do not submit to testing or provide satisfactory proof of negative test results must self-quarantine for 14 days upon entering the region. Failure to comply with this mandate may result in prosecution for reckless endangerment (AS 11.41.250), which could result in imprisonment for up to one year and a fine up to $25,000.

4. It is strongly recommended, in accordance with Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidance, that certain individuals within the Borough should take even greater precaution. That includes people particularly at risk of complications from COVID-19 such as people 60 years and older, and individuals of any age with a serious underlying condition.

5. Household members who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 and who are possibly contagious should be tested immediately and follow recommended quarantine measures to prevent a community outbreak.

6. Some businesses and entities serve critical roles that are necessary to combat this public health emergency or provide critical community functions are encouraged to remain open. Those businesses and entities must comply with social distancing guidelines, including maintaining six feet social distancing for employees and for members of the public in addition to conducting frequent sanitization. A list of businesses defined as critical is listed in NWAB EO-02.

7. All other businesses and entities in the Borough remain closed; however, businesses and entities may continue to utilize telecommuting or work-from-home procedures.

8. For residents performing subsistence activities and traveling to another community who must stop for groceries, gas, or supplies, you must use “curbside pickup,” located at a boat harbor or a controlled location set by the local government. Please plan ahead by contacting vendors or a family member and paying ahead for curbside pickup. Whenever possible, accept deliveries without person-to-person interaction.

9. The continuing health and safety of our region depends on self-responsibility and adherence to this emergency order, State and local mandates, and CDC guidance. Please take responsibility for yourself, your family and friends, and your community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

DATED this 19th day of June, 2020.

Lucy Nelson, Mayor
Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska

Ambler Ivisaaptaq, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipxaachiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivali-iaq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqtaruk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuuviq, Selawik Akuilaq, Shungnak Isiinaq