



Northwest Arctic Borough

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STATEMENT ADDRESSING EO-05 IN LIGHT OF GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY'S NOVEMBER 12 MESSAGE TO ALASKANS REGARDING COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES

On November 12, 2020, many of you received a message from the State of Alaska and watched a video from Governor Dunleavy urging Alaskans to take immediate action to slow COVID-19. That message can be viewed here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2020/11/12/governor-dunleavy-urges-alaskans-to-take-immediate-action-to-slow-covid-19/>

Since, March 2020, the Borough has taken emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in coordination with its regional and local partners. The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented public health emergency that continues to threaten our residents, our region, and health system. The Borough has partnered extensively with Maniilaq and the City of Kotzebue through its Unified Command System to address the pandemic and continues to work diligently to protect our region. We have been calling on Governor Dunleavy for months to provide support and more restrictive measures, and it is encouraging to finally see his message affirming measures we've been addressing for months.

The Borough's current emergency order, EO-05, has been extended through November 30, 2020. You should review it thoroughly: <https://www.nwabor.org/covid-19-information/>. Unless prohibited by law, this order supersedes all conflicting laws, except the City of Kotzebue's because the Borough Code exempts the City from its emergency jurisdiction. Residents must also follow the City of Kotzebue's current emergency order.

EO-05 is consistent with the Governor's message to stop the spread of COVID-19. 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. Some of the areas EO-05 addresses are:

- Requiring the region to hunker down and stay at home as much as possible.
- Establishing a Borough-wide curfew from 12:01 A.M. until 6:00 A.M.
- Requiring use of masks or cloth face coverings when indoors in public settings.
- Prohibiting all non-critical/non-essential travel.
- Requiring compliance with testing requirements for travelers.
- Prohibiting large events and mass gatherings of 10 people or more.
- Requiring closure of all non-essential businesses and urging telecommuting or work-from-home procedures whenever possible.
- Urging safe subsistence practices, including measures to help ensure subsistence practices are conducted safely.
- Urging self-responsibility. Self-responsibility is paramount. You must take responsibility for yourself, your family and friends, and your community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Community spread from social gatherings and close contact with family and friends has directly led to a COVID-19 surge in our region. We need to curb that trend immediately and stop the spread.