



## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE** **COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATES AND REGULATIONS**

March 31, 2022

Northwest Arctic Borough Residents:

The Northwest Arctic Borough Unified Command, in coordination with the Northwest Arctic Borough Task Force, issues the following health update to notify Borough residents of the expiration of both the Northwest Arctic Borough and the City of Kotzebue's respective emergency order and emergency regulations to address the threat of COVID-19.

For the last two years, the region's Unified Command (Northwest Arctic Borough, City of Kotzebue, and Maniilaq) have coordinated to address this public health emergency. In turn, the City and Borough have utilized their emergency response authority to enact emergency orders and emergency regulations to combat the spread of COVID-19.

At Midnight (12AM) on Thursday, March 31, 2022, the City and Borough's respective emergency order and emergency regulation to address COVID-19 will expire without renewal. Please understand that if circumstances warrant, the Unified Command will reconvene to determine further action if required.

Despite expiration of these emergency measures, individuals are encouraged to follow the CDC's guidelines for social distancing, masking, hand washing, and testing found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Residents and visitors must keep in mind that employers and businesses in the region may have their own COVID-19 mandates that must still be followed. Likewise, villages may have continuing COVID-19 mandates that must be followed.

Finally, vaccination is still the best defense against COVID-19 and everyone should be fully vaccinated and boosted in accordance with current CDC guidelines. Quyanna!