



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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2020 COVID-19 OUTBREAK DISASTER CERTIFICATION MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
Governor

THRU: Ben Stevens
Chief of Staff

FROM: Adam Crum
Commissioner

DATE: November 6, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak Disaster Certification

COVID-19 has impacted the world, the nation, and Alaska since the end of 2019. Alaska unfortunately has not been immune to this impact. The first case of COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) was detected in Alaska in March of 2020.

As a result of the unknown nature of this virus and not knowing how the state would manage it when it arrived in Alaska, I certified on March 11, 2020 that it was highly probable that a COVID-19 outbreak would occur in Alaska in the near future. That certification was based upon events happening across the world at that time and was supported by the following:

- The World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020.
- Secretary Alex Azar of The United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 on January 31, 2020 with retroactive effect to January 27, 2020.

2020 COVID-19 Outbreak Certification

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November 6, 2020

Based upon my prior certification, you issued a public health disaster declaration on March 11, 2020 to prepare the state for this imminent threat. That emergency declaration was extended by the legislature and is set to expire on November 15, 2020.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 emergency has not abated and we are no longer anticipating an imminent threat but instead infections are occurring in Alaska and have recently increased exponentially. Thus, a new disaster declaration is necessary as an “outbreak of disease” is occurring under AS 26.23.900(2)(E). Despite the state’s measures to contain and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, we continue to face escalating challenges with respect to COVID-19. Specifically, to date:

- There are over 48 million cases of COVID-19 confirmed worldwide, and over 9 million cases in the United States. Over 235,000 Americans have died from COVID-19.
- Alaska has had over 17,000 confirmed cases, and 84 deaths from COVID-19.
- In the past two weeks alone, Alaska is experiencing record daily numbers of new cases, with significant community spread.
- Currently, Alaska’s new daily infection rate is 49 individuals per 100,000, and as high as 112 per 100,000 in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.
- Alaska’s current infection rate is at its highest level since the pandemic began and its effect on the state’s resources, including health care, is expected to increase as cases continue to increase.

For these reasons, under Alaska Statute 26.23.900(2)(E), I certify that Alaska is currently experiencing a statewide outbreak of COVID-19 and will continue to do so indefinitely. I further certify that a disaster exists in the form of current widespread injury and increased loss of life due to infection and related illness caused by COVID-19.



Adam Crum, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

Office of the Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Dunleavy
Governor

THRU: Ben Stevens
Chief of Staff

FROM: Torrence Saxe
Commissioner

Torrence Saxe 6 Nov 20

DATE: November 6, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 COVID-19 Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration

On March 11, 2020, you issued a Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency due to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. That declaration was extended by the legislature and expires on November 15, 2020.

COVID-19 is no longer an imminent threat; it is spreading throughout the State of Alaska. There is significant and widespread community transmission of COVID-19 in Alaska happening right now. Commissioner Adam Crum of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has certified that a public health disaster is no longer imminent but is actually occurring. Based upon that certification, Commissioner Crum and I recommend you declare a new public health disaster emergency in response to this present outbreak.

The new declaration will again put a unified command structure in place. The unified command will support local jurisdictions and the statewide public healthcare system throughout this disaster. The declaration will give you the same authority to respond to the present outbreak of COVID-19 as was provided in the March 2020 declaration to respond to the imminent threat of outbreak.

Alaska Statutes 26.23.020(k) and 26.23.025(a) require that you submit a finance plan to cope with the disaster. I recommend that you limit expenditures from the Disaster Relief Fund to \$1,000,000.

All documents have been reviewed by the Department of Law and the Office of Management and Budget. Please provide copies of all signed documents to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at dhsem.adminsupport@alaska.gov for its disaster file.

Enclosures: Draft Declaration of Disaster Emergency
Draft Legislative Notification Letter



Office of the
CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT

November 6, 2020

Adam Crum, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923

Re: State of Alaska, DHSS COVID-19 Support for ANTHC

Dear Commissioner Crum,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), and the 177,000 Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) individuals we serve, I sincerely thank you for your decision to approve our recent funding request for COVID-19 related expenditures. We applaud the Governor's decision to exercise his discretion to utilize and maximize federal and state waiver authorities to give health providers the greatly needed resources and flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As you are well aware, ANMC has one of the highest ongoing inpatient occupancy rates for tribal facilities in the nation. With little existing capacity available to meet the increased demand for care associated with COVID-19, the additional resources you have provided are necessary in order to ensure capacity remains available to deliver essential care for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Andy Teuber
Chairman and President

Our Vision:

Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

4000 Ambassador Drive | Anchorage, Alaska 99508

907.942.1063

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P.O. Box 110001
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550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
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Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

November 6, 2020

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Giessel and Speaker Edgmon:

Today, I am taking action pursuant to Alaska Statute 26.23.020 to issue a Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On March 11, 2020, I issued a declaration based on the imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in Alaska. Through SB 241, the Legislature extended that declaration to November 15, 2020. The original declaration was based upon an imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in Alaska. This declaration is based upon the actual COVID-19 outbreak in Alaska. The basis for this new declaration are set forth in Commissioner Crum's attached certification memo, which states that COVID-19 is occurring across Alaska. Today, as we have discussed, Alaska faces an "outbreak of disease," significant community spread, and rising positivity rates throughout the state that exceed recommended CDC guidelines.

Pursuant to Alaska Statute 26.23.025(a) this letter serves as the initial finance plan for this new disaster emergency. Additionally, pursuant to Alaska Statute 26.23.020(i) funding to respond to this new declaration, and mitigate the risk arising from the COVID-19 outbreak, has already been appropriated for the fiscal year from the federal CARES Act and the Disaster Relief Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Senate President Cathy Giessel
Speaker Bryce Edgmon
November 6, 2020
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Enclosure: Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency

cc: The Honorable Bert Stedman, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Natasha von Imhof, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Neal Foster, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Jennifer Johnston, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of Representatives
Neil Steininger, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Miles Baker, Legislative Director, Governor's Office