

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Health Advisory No. 4

APPENDIX 01

ENHANCED PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR SEAFOOD PROCESSING WORKERS

This Appendix will establish general recommendations for seafood processing workers. Due to the wide variation of conditions between geographic regions, additional guidance may be passed by local governments and regional fisheries associations. This alert establishes the minimum standards for protective measures recommended by the State of Alaska. Employers may choose to enact measures which meet or exceed these standards. Employers that choose not to enforce these standards are making the decision to accept additional risk to their workforce and the surrounding communities.

Many lessons have been learned since the original issuance of this Appendix. As more is known about the virus that causes COVID-19, protective measures have correspondingly needed to evolve. Additionally, outbreaks of COVID-19 at seafood processing facilities in Alaska have caused illness and disruption to the lives of workers, considerable concern in communities that are home to processing plants, and significant impact to the seafood processing industry. These outbreaks have provided learning opportunities and made clear a number of additional actions that are required to protect the health and welfare of seafood processing employees and the surrounding communities. This revision of the Appendix includes recommended changes to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 to Alaskans and seafood processing workers. The State of Alaska is recommending the following Enhanced Protective Measures for Seafood Processing Workers.

I. Applicability.

- a. This Appendix should be applied to all resident employees and all workers traveling into Alaska to work in a shore-based seafood processing plant or onboard a processor or catcher-processor vessel.
 - i. Employers are strongly recommended to require all workers arriving from out of state to a shore-based processing plant to follow one of the three travel/quarantine options in Section VI.
 - ii. Crewmembers arriving from out of state to a catcher-processor vessel, which averages 5,000 pounds or less of processed product per day, should continue to follow the travel/quarantine guidance in Appendix 02 to Health Advisory No. 4.
 - iii. Employers are strongly recommended to require all crewmembers arriving from out of state to a processor vessel or a catcher-processor

- vessel, which averages more than 5,000 pounds of processed product per day, to follow the travel/quarantine guidance in Section VII.
 - iv. All on-site employees of seafood processing plants, processor or catcher-processor vessels should be subject to daily symptom screening and Continuous Screening Testing guidance in Section IX.
 - v. All employees of seafood processing plants, processor or catcher-processor vessels should be subject to the immediate actions in response to a confirmed case in the workplace, contained in Section X.
- b. Sections VI and VII of this Appendix do not apply to seafood processing workers who are permanent residents of the community their plant is in, and have not traveled outside Alaska for 14 days or more, or non-residents who have been living in the community and working at the processing plant or onboard their vessel for longer than 14 days prior to the issuance of this Appendix, unless transferring between plants or vessels (see Sections VI.e below).
- c. Workers beginning Entry Quarantine or travel after the date of issuance of this Appendix should comply with one of the options in Sections VI or VII.
- d. Workers who have completed Entry Quarantine and are transferring from one shore-based location in Alaska to another should follow the guidelines in Section VI.e below.
- e. Crewmembers who have completed Entry Quarantine and are transferring from one vessel to another should follow the guidelines in Section VII.c below.

II. Definitions.

- a. **Close Contact** means being within six feet of a known, or suspected, COVID-19 positive case for 15 minutes or greater, or having had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a positive COVID-19 case. This determination is irrespective of whether or not either person was wearing a face covering. Public Health officials will make a determination in the event that either person was wearing respiratory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The 15-minute time period does not have to be continuous, it may be cumulative over a 24-hour period.
- b. **Closed Campus** is a shore-based processing facility that meets *all* of the following criteria:
 - i. Has protective measures enacted to ensure non-contact completion of all business transactions, to include vendors, provisioning deliveries, and purchase or sale of catch or product.
 - ii. All members of the fish processing staff live in employer-controlled housing and any commuting support staff is completely isolated from non-commuting staff including working, eating, and interacting in separate spaces, as well as subject to daily pre-shift screening that meets or exceeds the requirements outlined in Section IX.d below.
 - iii. Conducts business transactions in a manner that allows for social distancing and does not allow Social Mixing with the local population (shore leave).

- c. **Isolation** is the separation of people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. It is mandatory that anyone with a positive test result (that has not recently recovered from the virus), or who is diagnosed by a medical professional through symptoms, isolates immediately. Isolation is monitored by medical professionals and is discontinued upon receipt of a clearance letter from a medical provider.
- d. **Movement Cohort** refers to a group of employees who are all in the same stage of their quarantine and testing process. Seafood processing companies should separate their traveling workers into Movement Cohorts of manageable size depending on their capacity and mode of travel, and stagger the arrival dates of Cohorts over time to ensure they do not overwhelm their screening, testing, and monitored quarantine capacity.
- e. **Non-Safe Transit** is a mode of transportation on which some passengers have not completed entry quarantine and testing requirements, or their quarantine and testing status is unknown. This can also apply when social distancing and/or appropriate PPE cannot be, or is not, used to isolate the travelers from the vehicle crew. Unless verified by the air carrier, all non-chartered commercial air travel is considered Non-Safe Travel.
- f. **Onward Travel** refers to the leg of travel from the quarantine location to the final destination facility or port for a worker or crewmember who is conducting pre-travel or mid-travel entry quarantine.
- g. **Open Campus** is a shore-based processing facility that meets *one or more* of the following criteria:
 - i. Conducts regular interactions with members of the local community or other populations.
 - ii. Has any portion of its processing staff or its support staff, which live in the local community, in housing where access is not controlled by the employer.
 - iii. Allows social mixing and/or business transactions between the plant staff and local community where six-foot social distancing is not maintained.
- h. **Quarantine** is the separation of individuals whose medical status is unknown, in order to prevent the possible spread of the virus to others. For the purposes of this order, there are two primary types of quarantine, Close Contact Quarantine and Entry Quarantine:
 - i. **Close Contact Quarantine** is a quarantine process where an individual is suspected of infection after being exposed to a positive case. Close Contact Quarantine is monitored by a medical professional or designated representative of the employer to ensure compliance and daily health checks. Section X.d provides detailed recommendations for the observation of close contact quarantine.
 - ii. **Entry Quarantine** is a sequestering process that occurs when an individual arrives to the State of Alaska, or returns after being away for longer than 24 hours. Section IV provides detailed recommendations for

the observation of entry quarantine. The three methods of supervision for Entry Quarantine are:

1. **Monitored Quarantine** is supervised directly by a representative of the employer.
 2. **Controlled Quarantine** is conducted by the employee based on instructions from the employer, but without direct supervision.
 3. **Self-Quarantine** is conducted by the employee based on the guidance for all travelers in Health Advisory No. 2, International and Interstate Travel.
- i. **Quarantine Group** - any group of workers that are living or working in close proximity should be assigned to a Quarantine Group and complete the remainder of their quarantine and travel together. All workers sleeping in one room should be assigned to the same Quarantine Group. Quarantine Groups should be kept as small as possible to prevent multiple workers from being exposed at once, and may not exceed ten individuals. Should any member of the Quarantine Group develop symptoms, or have a positive test, all other members of the Group should start Close Contact Quarantine.
 - j. **Safe Transit** is a mode of transportation where all employees have completed quarantine and testing requirements, and are not mixing with any populations whose quarantine and testing status is unknown. This can be a chartered aircraft, a ground vehicle, or a vessel. Social distancing and/or appropriate PPE should be used to isolate the travelers from the vehicle crew, particularly in chartered aircraft and taxis.
 - k. **Social Mixing** refers to being within six feet of an individual whose medical status is unknown for 15 minutes or greater. This determination is irrespective of whether or not either person was wearing a face covering. The 15-minute time period does not have to be continuous, it may be cumulative over a 24-hour period.
 - l. **Testing.** There are four purposes for COVID-19 testing: Diagnostic Testing, Baseline Testing, Entry Testing, and Continuous Screening Testing. Section III provides further guidance on testing.
 - i. **Diagnostic Testing** is intended to identify current infection in individuals, and is performed when a person has signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or when a person is asymptomatic but has recent known or suspected exposure to a confirmed case. This testing should be conducted as soon as possible once the individual is identified as a close contact. The individual should be kept separate from all others while test results are pending.
 - ii. **Baseline Testing** is intended to identify current infection in individuals, and is performed on members of the workforce who have not been identified as Tier 1 Close Contacts (known or suspected exposure), following a confirmed positive case in the workplace. This testing should be conducted in accordance with the facility's baseline testing plan outlined in Section XI. Individuals who are not in Close Contact

Quarantine do not need to be separated from other while test results are pending.

- iii. **Entry Testing** is conducted during a worker's Entry Quarantine process (See Sections VI and VII below) to determine if it is safe for the worker to travel and enter the designated Entry Quarantine site, or be released from quarantine.
- iv. **Continuous Screening Testing (CST)** is performed to identify persons who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening testing should be conducted on asymptomatic workers after completion of Entry Quarantine, and without known exposure to a confirmed case, in accordance with the requirements of Section IX.e below.

III. Testing.

- a. Testing methods.
 - i. Molecular tests are presently the most accurate tests for determining whether someone is currently infected with COVID-19. Testing required under this Appendix can be accomplished with any available molecular testing method that is FDA-approved, or allowable under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization. This includes all Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and other molecular-based rapid testing such as the Abbott ID-NOW or Cue.
 - ii. A full list of FDA authorized tests is available at: (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/vitro-diagnostics-euas>).
 - iii. **Antigen Testing.**
 - 1. Antigen testing may (should) not be used for Entry Testing.
 - 2. Antigen testing for SARS CoV-2 can be used for diagnostic testing on symptomatic people if the facility also has resources to confirm negative antigen test results with another molecular-type test.
 - 3. Antigen tests may (should only) be considered for Diagnostic and Baseline testing in outbreak response under the direction of Alaska Public Health or at sea under direction of a healthcare provider with a repeating interval of at least 24 hours when no access to molecular testing is available.
 - a. When used during Diagnostic Testing for a symptomatic individual, if three consecutive antigen tests taken 24 hours apart are all negative, the individual may be presumed negative and that the symptoms are caused by a disease other than COVID-19. The individual should be kept separated and treated in accordance with the facility or vessel's normal communicable disease plan.

4. Antigen testing may (should) only be used in lieu of molecular testing to meet CST requirements if it is administered in accordance with Section IX.e.xv.
- iv. Antibody testing may not be used for compliance with this Appendix.
- b. Seafood processing companies may utilize private collection and processing sources to complete entry testing for all non-residents.
- c. Seafood processing companies are encouraged to maximize the use of self-collection, mail-in testing, to support entry and screening testing for shore-based processing plants and to prioritize the use of rapid testing for diagnostic testing and shipboard use. A list of FDA-authorized home-collection COVID tests is available on the DHSS Testing website:
(<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/testing.aspx>).
- d. If testing resources become temporarily limited, and sufficient testing capacity is not available to support all testing requirements of this Appendix, the priority of testing resources should be: 1) Diagnostic Testing, 2) Entry Testing in Sections VI and VII, 3) Baseline Testing and then 4) CST in Section IX.
- e. Unless required by a medical provider or a state public health official, individuals who have previously tested positive for, or been diagnosed with, COVID-19 are exempt from the screening testing requirements in this Appendix for a period of 90 days beginning from the date of their first positive test, or the onset of their symptoms, whichever is first.
- f. Workers with a previously positive result using a PCR or molecular-based test (not an antibody test) for SARS-CoV2 within the last 90 days, who are currently asymptomatic and have clearance from a medical provider or a public health official indicating release from isolation, should not be tested during Entry Quarantine and are able to work if allowed by the employer's return to work strategy.
- g. Any company performing COVID testing in the State of Alaska is required by federal and state regulations to submit testing data to the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology. All results, both positive and negative, should be reported daily. Electronic reporting is the most efficient and preferred method, and can be arranged by contacting Megan Tompkins at megan.tompkins@alaska.gov. All positives should be immediately called in (1-877-469-8067) or faxed (907-563-7868) to Epidemiology as described in the testing guidance. Further guidance can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/reporting-lab-data.html>.
- h. Employers should maintain records of all testing for employees while they are under contract to the company. If an employee conducts Entry Testing at a testing site that does not report the results to their employer, the employee should retain and submit records of the test to their employer.
- i. Implementation of Continuous Screening Testing (CST).

1. Dependent upon the local availability of testing resources (manpower, equipment and materials), CST should commence in accordance with the CST Requirements Chart in Section IX.e for all shore-based processing plants and vessels immediately.
2. In coordination with local medical providers, and subject to availability of staffing and testing material and equipment, seafood processing facilities may utilize State-provided test equipment and materials for sample collection and the State Public Health Laboratory for sample processing in order to commence CST, until they have a privatized testing strategy in place. Local clinics may elect to charge private sector businesses for the collection and/or processing of samples.
3. Seafood processing companies should develop a plan to utilize private collection and processing sources to complete screening testing.
4. Privatized testing strategies should be implemented as soon as resources can be obtained.
5. State support for CST will be provided for as long as possible after the deadlines established above, depending on the availability of State-funded resources. Priority and timeliness of test results at collection sites and laboratories funded by the State of Alaska cannot be guaranteed.

IV. Entry Quarantine.

- a. Entry Quarantine Options. Entry Quarantine may be conducted prior to commencing travel into the State of Alaska (Pre-Travel), during a scheduled travel stop at a large city (Mid-Travel), or in the bunkhouse at the destination facility or a temporary lodging at the destination port prior to boarding a vessel (Post-Travel).
- b. Entry Quarantine Methods. There are three methods of supervision which may be used to conduct entry quarantine: Monitored Quarantine, Controlled Quarantine and Self-Quarantine:
 - i. Monitored Quarantine. This refers to a sequestering process that is monitored by the employer to ensure compliance and daily health checks. This should be done at a facility away from the workers' home and family, in an environment where the opportunity for social mixing is limited, either because the worker is quarantined alone or because others in their quarantine location are also following the same quarantine requirements.
 - ii. Controlled Quarantine. This refers to a sequestering process that is controlled by the employee with appropriate guidance from the employer to ensure compliance and daily health checks. This may be completed at the employee's home, provided that appropriate safety measures are followed to limit social mixing.

- iii. Self-Quarantine. This refers to a sequestering process where a traveler follows the guidelines in Section IX.a of Health Advisory No. 2, International and Interstate Travel, under their own recognizance. For the purposes of this Appendix, self-quarantine should only be used during travel layovers of less than 24 hours, and during unplanned travel delays, such as inclement weather.
 - c. Procedures for Entry Quarantine.
 - i. Workers should be educated by the employer on the requirements for quarantine.
 - ii. Workers should be screened (see Section VIII below) prior to entering the quarantine location by the employer or a designated medical provider.
 - iii. During Entry Quarantine, the preferred method is for workers to observe quarantine in single rooms with food delivered. If single rooms and food delivery are not available, employees should be assigned into Quarantine Groups.
 - iv. Quarantined workers may not leave their quarantine facility except to receive medical treatment.
 - v. Workers should have temperature checks twice a day. Should fever or symptoms of COVID-19 develop, follow the Identification Protocol in the seafood processing company's Community/Workforce Protective Plan. Seek testing and medical treatment immediately if symptoms are suspected to be caused by COVID-19.
 - vi. The employer should retain records of each worker's completion of Entry Quarantine, including the dates and location of quarantine, the names of other individuals quarantining at the same location for contact tracing purposes, records of twice daily temperature readings, and daily observations of COVID-19 symptoms as identified by the CDC.

V. Entry Travel.

- a. All workers should be screened (see Section VIII) for new symptoms prior to commencing travel to Alaska.
- b. All workers and crewmembers in transit on commercial aircraft must wear a face covering that meets the recommendations contained in the new Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening, eating, and drinking), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their quarantine facility.
- c. Workers in transit should carry documentation from their employer indicating that they are an essential Critical Infrastructure Worker as defined under Federal (CISA) guidance, and listing the travel and quarantine requirements of the employer's protective plan that the employee is required to follow. Examples of such letters can be found at:

https://ready.alaska.gov/Covid19/Documents/CWPP/Travel%20Critical_Infrastructure_Letter-Employee_Instructions_Template.docx).

- d. All workers arriving to Alaska by air directly from a foreign airport must also comply with the CDC International Air Travel Testing Order of 12 Jan, 2021, including those arriving on chartered aircraft.
 - i. The CDC entrance testing requirements may be met with an FDA-authorized antigen test. If an employer is having inbound CI workers tested solely to meet the Federal requirements (with a molecular test planned later in their Entry Quarantine process), an antigen test may suffice. But if the test is intended to satisfy Entry Quarantine testing required by Sections VI or VII, then it should be an FDA-authorized molecular test.

VI. Travel and Quarantine Options for Shore-Based Processing Plant Workers.

Seafood processing companies should make every effort to prevent a potentially infectious worker from exposing other workers or community members in their final destination community in Alaska. Companies should arrange for their arriving workers to follow one of the following three options:

- a. **Option 1: Pre-Travel Quarantine** – Workers should observe a 14-day Monitored or Controlled Quarantine period outside of Alaska and receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to beginning travel to Alaska.
 - i. Entry Quarantine. It is strongly encouraged that pre-travel Entry Quarantine be monitored by a representative of the employer. If the employer does not have a physical staff presence at the quarantine facility, workers may observe Controlled Quarantine with the understanding that this will trigger additional screening testing in accordance with Section IX.e.
 - ii. Testing. Upon completion of Entry Quarantine, all workers should receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to commencing travel to Alaska, or as close as possible to the end of their Entry Quarantine, to receive results prior to commencing travel.
 - iii. Onward Travel. All travel to the shore-based processing plant or quarters in the destination community should be accomplished via Safe Transit. Onward Travel may be accomplished onboard a processor or catcher-processor vessel.
 - iv. Integration. Upon arrival in the destination community, workers may immediately enter the non-quarantine quarters and commence work alongside other workers who have completed Entry Quarantine. However, it is our strong recommendation to continue having workers live, eat, and work in small, consistent groups following Entry Quarantine. If the virus is introduced in the facility, this will greatly reduce the number of potential contacts.
- b. **Option 2: Mid-Travel Quarantine;** Workers should travel to Alaska and observe a 14-day Monitored Quarantine period in temporary lodging in a large community that has a General Acute Care or Critical Access Hospital (*i.e.*,

Anchorage or Juneau) and should receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to beginning Onward Travel to their final destination community.

- i. Initial Travel. Travel to Alaska may be by non-Safe Transit.
 - ii. Entry Quarantine. It is strongly encouraged that pre-travel quarantine be monitored by a representative of the employer. If the employer does not have a physical staff presence at the quarantine location, workers may observe controlled quarantine with the understanding that this will trigger additional screening testing in accordance with Section IX.e.
 - iii. Testing. It is strongly encouraged that workers receive a pre-travel test to ensure that they are fit to travel. Upon completion of quarantine, all workers should receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to commencing onward travel to their destination community, or as close as possible to the end of their quarantine, to receive results prior to commencing onward travel.
 - iv. Onward Travel. All travel from the quarantine location to the processing facility in the destination community should be accomplished via Safe Transit. Workers should travel by Movement Cohort.
 - v. Integration. Upon arrival in the destination community, workers may immediately enter the non-quarantine quarters and commence work alongside other workers who have completed quarantine. However, it is our strong recommendation to continue having workers live, eat, and work in small, consistent groups following mid-travel quarantine. If the virus is introduced in the facility, this will greatly reduce the number of potential contacts.
- c. **Option 3: Post-Travel Quarantine:** Workers will travel to their final destination community in Alaska, and should be screened (see Section VIII) and receive a molecular test upon arrival at their destination community.
- i. Planning. If the following details are not already specified in their submitted Community/Workforce Protective Plan (CWPP). Seafood processing companies utilizing Option 3 should modify their plan to reflect:
 1. How they will segregate their lodging facilities to separate workers under Monitored Quarantine from those that have completed quarantine.
 2. How they will provide dedicated facilities or adjust hours to maintain separation in dining, shower, and bathroom facilities.
 3. How they will conduct molecular testing for workers under Monitored Quarantine.
 - ii. Travel. It is strongly encouraged that workers receive a pre-travel test to ensure that they are fit to travel. Travel to the destination community may be by non-Safe Transit. Arriving workers should proceed directly to their designated quarantine facility, should practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and transport to the quarantine facility.

- iii. Monitored Entry Quarantine.
 - 1. Upon arrival at their final destination community, workers will be assigned to lodging in their quarantine facility. If possible, arriving workers should quarantine in single rooms. If single rooms are not available, all workers sleeping together in a room should be in the same Quarantine Group.
 - 2. **It is strongly recommended by the State of Alaska that arriving processing workers are not permitted to work during their 14-day Entry Quarantine period.** The only exceptions that should be considered to this are for mission-critical specialists such as electricians, heavy equipment operators, or refrigeration mechanics who can maintain strict social distancing while working and continue to quarantine during their non-work times. Workers should not actively engage in seafood processing during quarantine.
 - 3. Quarantined workers should wear a face covering at all times when outside of their assigned sleeping quarters, except when eating and performing personal hygiene.
 - 4. Quarantine Groups should maintain six-foot social distancing measures from all workers outside of their Quarantine Group.
 - 5. Common spaces should be cleaned between use by different Quarantine Groups and before use by workers who have completed Entry Quarantine.
 - 6. If a new worker joins a Quarantine Group, the 14-day clock should re-start for the entire Quarantine Group.
 - 7. To the greatest extent possible, members of multiple Quarantine Groups should not use shower or toilet facilities at the same time, and bathrooms should be disinfected at least twice per day.
 - 8. To the greatest extent possible, members of multiple Movement Cohorts should not use dining facilities at the same time. Six-foot social distancing measures should be maintained between Quarantine Groups in dining facilities.
- iv. Testing. All arriving workers should receive a molecular test within 48 hours of arrival at their destination community, preferably prior to entering their monitored quarantine lodging. The initial test may be conducted in route to their destination community. Depending upon the local availability of testing capacity, workers should receive a molecular test six days into their quarantine period. Workers should receive a test within 48 hours before being released from quarantine.
- v. Integration. Workers who have completed quarantine may immediately enter the non-quarantine quarters and commence work alongside other workers who have completed quarantine. However, it is our strong recommendation to continue having workers live, eat, and work in small, consistent groups following post-travel quarantine. If the virus is

- introduced in the facility, this will greatly reduce the number of potential contacts.
- d. Each employer will be responsible for appropriately isolating any employee with a positive test result, ensuring that the employee has access to necessary healthcare, and will be responsible for arranging transport to a hospital, if needed.
 - e. **Mid-season Transfer:** Workers who have been working in one location and need to transfer to another location should follow the following guidelines:
 - i. If workers are leaving a facility that has experienced onsite transmission of SARS-CoV-2, pre-departure molecular testing of all departing workers is required. This testing should be conducted if it has been less than 28 days since the last positive case was released from isolation.
 - ii. All transfer-related travel should be accomplished via Safe Transit. If Safe Transit is not available and transferring workers are required to be in Close Contact with people whose quarantine status is not known, this should trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX, similar to Monitored Quarantine followed by Non-Safe Transit.
 - iii. It is strongly recommended that workers traveling from one processing facility to another live, eat, and work in the same group they traveled with or in small, consistent groups throughout the season.

- VII. Travel and Quarantine Options for Processor Vessel Crewmembers.** Seafood processing-vessels and catcher-processor vessels should make every effort to prevent a potentially infectious crewmember from exposing other crewmembers or community members in their destination port in Alaska.
- a. **Pre-Season Quarantine:** The preferred method of quarantine for processor and catcher-processor vessels is for the entire vessel crew to observe Monitored or Controlled Quarantine and testing in the Lower 48 prior to boarding the vessel, and sail as a Movement Cohort with the vessel as a means of Safe Transit. All crewmembers should be screened (see Section VIII) for new symptoms prior to boarding.
 - b. **Mid-Season Crew Changes** – For crewmembers who must join the vessel after the rest of the crew has completed quarantine, companies should arrange for their arriving workers to follow one of the following three options:
 - i. **Option 4: Pre-Travel Quarantine for Crewmembers.** Crewmembers should observe a 14-day quarantine period outside of Alaska and receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to beginning travel to Alaska.
 - a. **Entry Quarantine.** It is strongly encouraged that pre-travel quarantine be Monitored by a representative of the employer. If the employer does not have a physical staff presence at the quarantine facility, crewmembers may observe Controlled Quarantine with the understanding that this should trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX.

- b. Testing. Upon completion of Entry Quarantine, all crewmembers should receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to commencing travel to Alaska, or as close as possible to the end of their quarantine to receive results prior to commencing travel.
 - c. Travel. It is strongly encouraged that all travel from the quarantine location to the vessel be accomplished via Safe Transit. Non-Safe Transit may increase risk of exposure to populations whose quarantine and testing status is unknown. Using Non-Safe Transit after completion of quarantine will trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX.
 - d. Arriving crewmembers who have completed Entry Quarantine should proceed directly to their vessel, should practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and the vessel. In the event of either delay in transit or that their vessel is unavailable for boarding when they arrive, crewmembers shall be transported to a hotel or other accommodation where they should Self-Quarantine until they are able to continue travel or board their vessel.
- ii. **Option 5: Mid-Travel Quarantine for Crewmembers.** Crewmembers should travel to Alaska and observe a 14-day quarantine period in temporary lodging in a large community that has a General Acute Care or Critical Access Hospital (*i.e.*, Anchorage or Juneau) and receive a molecular test within 72-hours prior to beginning Onward Travel to their final destination community.
- a. Travel. It is strongly encouraged that workers receive a pre-travel test to ensure that they are fit to travel. Travel to Alaska may be by Non-Safe Transit.
 - b. Entry Quarantine. It is strongly encouraged that mid-travel quarantine be Monitored by a representative of the employer. If the employer does not have a physical staff presence at the quarantine facility, crewmembers may observe Controlled Quarantine with the understanding that this should trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX.e.
 - c. Testing. Upon completion of Entry Quarantine, all crewmembers should receive a molecular test within 72-hours prior to commencing onward travel to their destination community or as close as possible to the end of their Entry Quarantine to receive results prior to commencing onward travel.
 - d. Onward Travel. It is strongly encouraged that all travel from the quarantine facility to the vessel be accomplished via Safe Transit. Non-Safe Transit may increase risk of exposure to populations

whose quarantine and testing status is unknown. Using Non-Safe Transit after completion of quarantine will trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX. Crewmembers should travel by Movement Cohort.

- e. **Integration.** Arriving crewmembers who have completed Entry Quarantine should proceed directly to their vessel, should practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and the vessel. In the event of either delay in transit or that their vessel is unavailable for boarding when they arrive, crewmembers shall be transported to a hotel or other accommodation where they should Self-Quarantine until they are able to continue travel or board their vessel.

iii. **Option 6: Post-Travel Quarantine for Crewmembers.** Crewmembers should observe a 14-day quarantine period on shore at their destination port and receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to boarding the vessel.

- a. **Travel.** It is strongly encouraged that workers receive a pre-travel test to ensure that they are fit to travel. Travel to the destination port may be by Non-Safe Transit.
- b. Arriving crewmembers quarantining on shore should proceed directly to their designated quarantine facility, should practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and should not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and transport to the quarantine facility.
- c. **Entry Quarantine.** To the greatest extent possible, quarantine for arriving crewmembers should be Monitored by the employer. If the employer has no staff physically present at the quarantine facility so that the arriving crewmembers must observe Controlled Quarantine or are forced to Self-Quarantine due to a weather delay, that should trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX. If crewmembers must Self-Quarantine before the vessel arrives, employers should require crewmembers to sign an affidavit stating that they have not broken Self-Quarantine guidance.
- d. **Testing.** All crewmembers should receive a molecular test within 72 hours prior to boarding the vessel, or as close as possible to receive results prior to boarding.
- e. **Boarding.** All crewmembers should be screened (see Section VIII) for new symptoms prior to boarding.

c. **Cross-decking.** Crewmembers transferring from one vessel to another vessel after completing Entry Quarantine may do so immediately if the vessels are in

the same port and the crewmember does not have Social Mixing with members of the local community while on shore.

- i. If crewmembers are leaving a vessel that has experienced any on-board transmission of SARS-CoV-2, pre-departure molecular testing of all cross-decking workers should be completed. This testing should be conducted if it has been less than 28 days since the last positive case was released from isolation.
- ii. If this testing cannot be completed prior to departure, the transferred crewmembers should take the test in transit and Self-Quarantine on shore until receiving negative test results prior to beginning travel or boarding the new vessel.
- iii. All transfer-related travel should be accomplished via Safe Transit.
- iv. If Safe Transit is not available and transferring crewmembers are required to be in Close Contact with people whose quarantine status is not known, this should trigger additional CST in accordance with Section IX, similar to Monitored Quarantine followed by Non-Safe Transit.

VIII. Symptom Screening of Personnel. All workers should be screened individually for symptoms upon arrival to the quarantine facility and/or final destination facility or vessel, using the following procedures or an equivalent medically-vetted procedure. Seafood processing companies should arrange for dedicated spaces to conduct private, symptom screening in a space that can be disinfected should an arriving worker fail the screening. Answering “yes” to *any one* of the following questions should prompt testing. Employers should ensure that questions are presented in a manner and/or language that the employee can understand. Arrival symptom screening should include all of the following:

- a. Verbal Symptom Screening Questions
 - i. Have you experienced any cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, sore throat, unusual fatigue or symptoms of acute respiratory illness in the last 72 hours?
 - ii. Have you experienced a fever (100.4° F [38° C] or greater using an oral thermometer) within the last 72 hours?
 - iii. Have you experienced signs of a fever such as chills, aches and pains, etc., within the last 72 hours?
 - iv. In the past 14 days, have you traveled in an area or country with widespread COVID-19 transmission without practicing social distancing?
 - v. Have you had close contact (within six feet for longer than 15 minutes) within the past 14 days with a lab-confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case patient or had direct contact with infectious secretions of a positive COVID-19 case?
- b. Physical Symptom Screening
 - i. Each worker should demonstrate a measured temperature < 100.4° F [38° C]. (This reference is for oral temperature, a forehead (temporal)

- scanner is usually 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) lower than an oral temperature. An ear (tympanic) temperature is 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) higher than an oral temperature.)
- ii. Anyone performing a physical screening should wear appropriate PPE. If PPE is not available, the worker may take their own temperature.
 - c. Prior to being allowed to enter the facility or vessel, each worker should be free of fever or respiratory symptoms. A possible exception would be if the worker has mild symptoms that are clearly attributable to another source (e.g., allergies or other recurring medical issues).
 - d. If a worker fails verbal or physical symptom screening, they will be immediately separated from other individuals and should not be allowed to enter a worksite or board a vessel until appropriate testing, quarantine, and/or isolation is complete in compliance with the employer's CWPP.
 - e. Symptomatic individuals who receive negative test results or who are positively diagnosed with another disease which is causing their symptoms will follow the treatment and/or return to work policy of the employer's infectious disease protocol upon the recommendation of the medical professional (on-site, local clinic or telemedicine) making the determination.
 - f. If a worker has positive results to a SARS-CoV-2 test or is diagnosed through symptoms to have COVID-19 it is strongly recommended that they be immediately isolated in accordance with Section X.c.
 - g. Employers should maintain documentation of arrival screening for all employees.

IX. Workplace Protective Measures, Daily Symptom Screening and Continuous Screening Testing.

- a. The CDC has recently revised their interim guidance for [Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19](#). Seafood processing companies should review the interim guidance again and, to the greatest extent possible, should enact the recommended protective measures that are appropriate and suitable for their processing plant or vessel.
- b. **Masks and Cloth Face Coverings in the Workplace.** Masks or cloth face coverings should be worn at all times when staff are at the work place. This includes offices, working areas and outside. The mask should cover the nose and mouth and may only be removed when eating, drinking, performing personal hygiene, or when they are in their personal quarters.
 - i. During processing work, a clear face shield may be worn as PPE in lieu of a cloth face covering, in order to facilitate communication between workers, however masks are preferred.
 - ii. While outdoors or on deck, masks may be temporarily removed as needed to facilitate communication.
 - iii. While operating heavy machinery or shipboard systems, masks may be temporarily removed if wearing a mask will impede the safe operation of the equipment or create unsafe conditions, based on a safety assessment by the work supervisor.

- iv. The company should supply all needed PPE for their workers and replace it as needed.
- c. **Visitors, Third-Part Auditors and Inspectors.**
 - i. Visitors touring the plant and/or interacting with plant staff present a risk of introducing the virus to a facility or vessel. Non-essential visitors should not be permitted.
 - ii. Essential visitors within the company staff should follow the travel, testing and quarantine guidelines listed in the company's CWPP. Third party auditors should be informed prior to travel of the company's testing and quarantine requirements. Regulatory inspectors may not be barred from the facility for COVID-19 related reasons, but should follow reasonable testing and quarantine requirements established by the company prior to their inspection.
 - iii. Visitors, Third-Party Auditors and Inspectors to shore-based processing plants which observe proper travel and social distancing guidelines will not trigger additional CST for the facility staff.
 - iv. Boarding parties on vessels which observe proper social distancing guidelines will not trigger additional CST for the vessel crew.
- d. **Daily Pre-Shift Symptom Screening.** Conducting daily symptom screening of all employees throughout the season helps ensure outbreaks are detected early.
 - i. All employees should be screened by a supervisor or designated screener.
 - ii. Screening should be conducted near the start of the employee's work shift, prior to prolonged Close Contact with other workers.
 - iii. Before entering the work area or mixing with other workers, every employee should be asked:
 "Since your last pre-shift screening, have you experienced any of the following symptoms: Fever/shivering, persistent cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste, sore throat, diarrhea or nausea, headache, muscle/joint aches or runny nose?"
 - iv. To the greatest extent possible, all workers should have daily temperature checks, using the temperature thresholds in Section VIII.b.
 - v. Workers who have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately be separated from the rest of the workforce for testing. A possible exception would be if the worker has mild symptoms that are clearly attributable to another source (e.g., allergies or other recurring medical issues).
 - vi. A daily log of screening for each worker should be maintained and made available to the Alaska Division of Public health upon request.
- e. **Continuous Screening Testing (CST).** Testing asymptomatic workers in the absence of a confirmed case (outside the arrival period) periodically throughout the season is a useful strategy to detect asymptomatic cases and prevent further spread of the virus throughout the facility/vessel and the local community.

- i. Facilities and vessels should continuously evaluate their Alert Level throughout the season, guided by the chart below. Companies may elect to test larger sample sizes or at a shorter interval if conditions warrant additional caution.
- ii. Sample testing should be a rolling sample to ensure all members of the population are eventually tested. No one may be exempted from screening testing unless they are a prior positive, as defined in Section III.f above.
- iii. Shore-based processing plants and vessels may also use self-collection kits such as the LabCorp Pixel or rapid testing capabilities such as the Abbott ID Now or Cue Health machines to meet CST requirements.
- iv. The Alert Level conditions for shore-based processing plants with Open Campuses should be based on the current Alert Level for the local community or local school zone.
 1. If the local municipal or tribal government is maintaining an official Alert Level for the community, that level should be used to set the Alert Level for the shore-based processing plant.
 2. If the local community is not maintaining an updated Alert Level, the facility Alert Level should be based on the Alert Level being used at the local public schools, based on local and regional conditions.
- v. Vessels without testing capability on board should ensure that the test samples are collected for the designated population within 48 hours prior to reaching port (if using self-collection) or are collected and shipped during the next port call following the specified testing interval.
- vi. If using mail-in testing, vessels are strongly encouraged to delay departure from port until they receive negative results back, to minimize the risk of getting underway with an infectious crewmember on board.
- vii. Shore-based processing plants with less than ten workers at a time active in the processing space during all shifts, and vessels with less than 30 total crew on board, are recommended, but not required, to conduct CST. Processing facilities and vessels that are not required to conduct CST should still comply with all other requirements of this Appendix.
- viii. A log of all testing should be maintained and provided to Public Health officials or other healthcare authorities upon request.
- ix. Staff or crew changes when the arriving personnel have completed documented, **Monitored** Quarantine, followed by testing and travel via Safe Transit from the quarantine facility to the destination facility or vessel, will not trigger a change to High Alert level.
- x. Staff or crew changes with personnel departing the facility with no replacements arriving will not trigger a change in alert level.
- xi. Arriving prior positives within 90 days (as defined in Section III.f, with documentation) will not trigger a change in Alert Level.

- xii. New Workers at Shore-Based processing plants. A change in alert level for Shore-Based processing plants should be triggered by: workers arriving from out-of-state to complete Post-Travel Entry Quarantine (Option 3), and workers who had completed Option 1 (Pre-travel) or Option 2 (Mid-travel) with **Controlled** Quarantine.
 - 1. A change to High Alert level will not be triggered by arriving workers who had completed Option 1 (Pre-travel) or Option 2 (Mid-travel) with **Monitored** Quarantine and traveled via Safe Transit, prior positives within 90 days (documentation required), or short-term visitors who do not have Close Contact with workers.
 - 2. Facilities that only employ local workers need only follow their local alert level. New hires that have been resident in the community for longer than 14 days are not included as changing the risk category for these facilities.
 - 3. Workers who are in the process of their Post-Travel Entry Quarantine do not need to be tested as part of this strategy and should adhere to the plan for testing during Entry Quarantine.
- xiii. Consult with Public Health to determine if contact meets definition of “Social Mixing.” Exceptions may also be made, in consultation with Public Health, for crew seeking medical care at a local facility so long as all appropriate precautions are taken.
- xiv. CST Requirements for Vessels at High Alert Level.
 - 1. If all crew on (in the case of initial sailing) or joining (in the case of crew change) the vessel have completed **Monitored** Quarantine followed by **Safe Transit** from the quarantine facility to the vessel, no additional testing is required outside of Entry Quarantine requirements for the arriving crewmembers.
 - 2. If any crew joining the vessel have completed **Monitored** Quarantine then traveled by **Non-Safe Transit** from the quarantine facility to the vessel, Option A, B, or C may be used.
 - 3. If any new crew joining the vessel completed **Controlled** Quarantine, Option A or B should be used.
 - 4. Testing Options for Vessels at High Alert Level.
 - Option A.** Test all new crewmembers at Day five and Day eight with onboard testing.
 - Option B.** Test all new crewmembers within 8–21 days of arrival (safest option) or test 100 percent of crewmembers at the next port of call (less safe option). Swabs may be tested locally or sent for testing elsewhere. The vessel may return to sea while results are pending.
 - Option C.** Within 8–21 days of arrival of new crew (safest option) or at next port of call (less safe option): Coordinate with local clinic or other external medical provider to conduct an

anonymous symptom screen of crew and test: 1) (Only if crew change) All new crew, 2) All crew who report symptoms, and 3) A sample of other crew so that at least 25 percent of the crew are tested.

- xv. In order for antigen testing to be utilized to meet CST requirements on a vessel underway or in a shore-based facility with no access to molecular testing, a series of antigen testing must be completed by an individual to substitute for a single molecular test, or the facility must have recurring testing conducted every three days on a continuous basis.
1. Option 1 – Antigen testing in series. Three antigens tests, of the same make and model, must be taken with 24 to 48 hours between each test by a single individual, in lieu of a molecular test.
 - i. If one of the three antigen tests yields a positive result, it is strongly recommended that the individual be isolated immediately as a suspected positive case until the result can be verified or denied using a molecular test. If the remaining two tests are both negative, consult with the vessel’s telemedicine provider and/or Public Health Nursing to decide whether to treat the single positive result as a “false positive.”
 - ii. If two or more of the antigen tests yield a positive result, it is strongly recommended that the individual be isolated immediately as a positive COVID-19 case in accordance with Section X.c.
 2. Option 2 – Recurring Antigen Testing. For this to be used to meet CST requirements, each individual should be tested consistently every 3 days regardless of any other screening testing interval.

Figure 1. Continuous Screening Testing Requirements Chart

Risk Category		Shore-Based, Open Campus >10 workers in the processing space	Shore-Based, Closed Campus >10 workers in the processing space	Processor or Catcher-Processor Vessel > 30 total crew
High	Conditions	High alert level at local jurisdiction (if available), or high alert level at community school, or arrival of new workers* within 14 days.	Arrival of new workers* within 28 days	Initial sailing or arrival of new crew [‡]
	Testing Sample and Frequency	<i>If high alert level</i> , test 100% of commuting workers, 25% of onsite workers every 7 days** <i>If arrival of new workers</i> , test 50% of workers 21 days after new workers* arrive.	Test each worker at least once every 14 days**	Option A. Test all new crew at Day 5 and Day 8 with onboard testing. OR Option B. Within 8–21 days of arrival of new crew (safest option) or at next port of call (less safe option): Test 100% of crew. Swabs may be tested locally or sent for testing elsewhere. The vessel may return to sea while results are pending. OR Option C. Within 8–21 days of arrival of new crew (safest option) or at next port of call (less safe option): Coordinate with local clinic or other external medical provider to conduct an anonymous symptom screen of crew and test: 1) (Only if crew change) All new crew and 2) All crew who report symptoms, and 3) A sample of other crew so that at least 25% of the crew are tested.
Medium	Conditions	Medium alert category at local jurisdiction (if available) or medium alert level at community school	<i>Special circumstance outside risk category:</i> Social Mixing with local community members [†]	<i>Special circumstance outside risk category:</i> Social mixing with shore-based workers or local community members during port call [‡]
	Testing Sample and Frequency	Test 100% of commuting workers and 50% of onsite workers every 14 days**	Test 100% of workers who had contact with local community, 7–10 days after contact. Other workers should continue to follow the testing strategy for whatever risk category (low or high) is currently in effect.	Test 100% of crewmembers who had contact with shore-based workers or local community, collected 7–10 days after contact using onboard testing or 100% of the crew during the next port call if onboard testing is not available. The vessel may return to sea while results are pending.
Low	Conditions	Low alert category at local jurisdiction (if available) or low alert category at community school	More than 28 days since the arrival of workers	More than 21 days since the arrival of new crew
	Testing Sample and Frequency	Test each worker at least once every 28 days	Test each worker at least once every 28 days	No screening testing required

* See Section IX.e.xii for a definition of “New Workers” for Shore-Based Processing Plants
 ** See Section IX.e.xii.3 for clarification of testing requirements for workers in Post-Travel quarantine
 † See Section IX.e.xiii for a definition of Social Mixing which would trigger a change to Medium Alert Level.
 ‡ See Section IX.e.xiv for clarification of vessel testing requirements.

X. Immediate Actions Required in Response to a Confirmed Case.

- a. Under AS 18.15.375, the Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for investigating both single cases and outbreaks of certain infectious diseases, such as COVID-19.
 - i. The primary goal of these investigations is to prevent additional cases by: (1) identifying ill or infected persons and their contacts, (2) describing relevant exposures, and (3) implementing prevention strategies.
 - ii. Private Sector businesses have the responsibility to provide a safe working environment for their employees.
 - iii. To the greatest extent possible, DPH will allow private sector businesses to assist with outbreak response efforts within their facilities and workforce. DHSS may use the powers and provisions set out in AS 18.15.355 - 18.15.395 to override risk decisions in situations that pose a threat to public health or when business risk decisions may have an impact on public capabilities or infrastructure.
 - iv. Employers are responsible for coordinating and funding actions taken within their facility and workforce in response to a COVID-19 case or outbreak.
- b. **Notification.** Employers should notify the nearest Public Health Nursing Center or the DHSS Section of Epidemiology at 907-269-8000 in the event of a positive clinical diagnosis or positive test result in their workplace. A full list of Public Health Nursing Centers is available here:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Nursing/Pages/locations.aspx>.
 - i. Employers may also be required by local ordinances to contact the local or borough government authorities or Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - ii. The information that should be provided when notifying Public Health of a case includes the name of the case and their date of birth, current address, state or country of permanent residence, telephone number, and the date of test result.
 - iii. In accordance with USCG District 17 MSIB Number 01-21, persons on vessels underway who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be reported immediately to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port (COTP). For Southeast Alaska north to Yakutat, the COTP is USCG Sector Juneau. For Prince William Sound around to the Chukchi Sea, the COTP is USCG Sector Anchorage.
 - iv. Vessels that departed from a foreign port and are destined for a U.S. port must report to the closest Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Quarantine Station any sick or deceased crew/passengers during 15 days prior to arrival at the U.S. port. Guidance for vessels to report deaths and illnesses to the CDC can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/reporting-deaths-illness/guidance-how-report-onboard-death-illness.html>.

- v. Vessels will follow the contact process from the State of Alaska Maritime Communicable Disease Emergency Response Plan.
- c. **Immediate Actions.** *The key to containing the spread of the virus throughout a facility or vessel is swift, decisive action once the first positive case is identified.*
 - i. **Identification of Positive Cases.** Once COVID-positive individuals have been diagnosed based on test results, it is strongly recommended that they be isolated in accordance with Section X.d.
 - ii. **Consultation with Telemedicine provider, local clinic, PHN and SoE.** Upon identifying a positive case in the workplace, an employer should immediately consult medical professionals, to include their on-site medical staff, telemedicine provider and the local clinic. Assistance for contact tracing should be requested from Public Health Nursing. Upon identifying a positive case cluster (three or more positive individuals), the employer should contact the Section of Epidemiology for assistance in outbreak response.
 - iii. **Contact Tracing** is normally conducted by training Public Health staff members. The intent of contact tracing is to identify and categorize the exposure that other workers may have had to the positive case. If PHNs are not immediately able to respond, the on-site staff may begin contact tracing under the direction of a medical professional.
 - 1. Tier 1 contacts are those that had Close Contact as defined in Section II.a. Tier 1 contacts should observe Close Contact Quarantine in accordance with Section X.e, regardless of the results of Baseline Testing.
 - 2. Tier 2 contacts are members of the same shift or movement cohort, that did not have Close Contact with the positive case.
 - 3. Tiers 3 contacts are other workers who shared common spaces or surfaces (such as dining or bathroom facilities) with the confirmed case.
 - iv. **Medical Risk Assessment of Workforce.** The employer’s medical staff or telemedicine provider should conduct a Medical Risk Assessment, based on the CDC’s guidelines for persons who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fpeople-at-increased-risk.html. The employer should consider additional protective measures to safeguard this vulnerable population, or removing them from the facility if feasible.
 - v. **Baseline Testing Plan.** Based on the availability of testing resources, the employer should develop a Baseline Testing Plan. Baseline testing on asymptomatic Tier 1 contacts may not be used to shorten Close Contact Quarantine, but is very useful for determining how wide-spread the outbreak may be. Additional Baseline Testing may be

prioritized by vulnerability (Medical Risk Assessment), exposure (Contact Tracing Tier) or criticality of the individual to maintain operations. Other considerations, such as housing conditions, may effect the Baseline Testing priorities. Additional considerations for Baseline Testing are available from the CDC at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/worker-safety-support/hd-testing.html>.

- vi. **Continuity of Operations.** For smaller clusters, or outbreaks isolated to a specific department or work shift, the facility may be able to continue operations. For larger outbreaks, it is strongly recommended that the facility conduct an “operational pause” until contact tracing can be conducted and Baseline Testing started. Tier 2 and Tier 3 workers may continue to work while awaiting Baseline Testing or test results.
- vii. **Cleaning of Facility/Workspaces.** Prior to re-commencing operations after a positive case is known to be at work in the facility, the workspace should be cleaned and disinfected following the CDC’s guidance available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>. The facility should strongly consider following an enhanced periodic cleaning regimen until the outbreak is resolved.
- viii. **Return to Work Policy.** The State of Alaska strongly recommends against the use of any test-based return to work policy for positive cases and Tier 1 Contacts. If the facility has conducted an operational pause, it is recommended to use negative results of two Baseline Tests before returning Tier 2 Contacts or High-Risk individuals to work and the negative results of one Baseline Test before returning Tier 3 Contacts to work.
- d. **Isolation of Positive Individuals.** *It is mandatory that anyone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, or tests positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 be immediately placed into Isolation.*
 - i. Individuals who receive positive test results or who are diagnosed through symptoms with COVID-19 may only be released from Isolation by a medical provider or Public Health official.
 - ii. Several hotels across the State have established protocols to house isolated and/or quarantined people. If a positive case or Close Contact is going to be moved into a hotel, the hotel staff and local jurisdiction must be notified of the person’s status and the person must follow all hotel and local protective measures.
 - iii. The preferred method is for positive patients to Isolate individually, if facilities are not available then positive patients can Isolate in a shared facility with other positive patients.
 - iv. Commuting workers may be permitted to Isolate in their home. If an individual is Isolating at home, all other members in the household should

follow Close Contact Quarantine. Their quarantine period should continue for 14 days after the Isolation period of the positive household member ends or as directed by a Public Health Nurse. If a commuting worker lives with other household members who are at an elevated risk for COVID-19 infection, the employer may consider offering temporary lodging as an isolation or quarantine facility.

- v. Companies may choose one of the CDC-established strategies (test-based, or time/symptom-based) for discontinuing staff from Isolation; selecting a strategy to discontinue Isolation should be made in consultation with Public Health staff and in the context of local circumstances. The time/symptom-based strategy is currently recommended by the Section of Epidemiology for most cases.
 - vi. If previously positive individuals are displaying COVID-like symptoms and evaluation fails to identify a diagnosis other than SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., influenza), then the person may warrant evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 reinfection in consultation with an infectious disease or infection control expert. Isolation may be warranted during this evaluation, particularly if symptoms developed after Close Contact with an infected person.
- e. **Close Contact Quarantine.** *All workers who have been identified by public health staff as Close Contacts to a COVID-19 case are required to remain in monitored quarantine for 14 days.*
- i. Workers should be placed into Close Contact Quarantine immediately upon being identified as Close Contacts through contact tracing. Additionally, workers who are clearly Close Contacts (for example: roommates, significant others or family members) should be put into Close Contact Quarantine immediately; coordinating with Public Health should not delay that process. Individuals who have previously tested positive for or been diagnosed with COVID-19 are exempt from quarantine requirements for a period of 90 days beginning from the date of their first positive test, or the onset of their symptoms, whichever is first. Any symptomatic recent former positive may need retesting and/or quarantine; consult with a medical provider.
 - ii. Workers who are identified as Close Contacts but remain asymptomatic that have been fully vaccinated, with documented proof that they have received all required doses of an FDA-authorized vaccination against COVID-19 with the final dose being administered more than 14 days prior to their exposure, should follow [quarantine guidance from the CDC specifically for vaccinated persons](#).
 - iii. While the CDC Guidance for [Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#) does allow for Critical Infrastructure Workers to continue work during quarantine following specific testing requirements, recent events here in Alaska have shown

that the safety measures recommended are not adequate to prevent the spread of the virus in a congregate work setting such as a seafood processing plant. Seafood processing companies should only allow Close Contacts to continue working under Close Contact Quarantine if the worker can maintain strict social distancing, *and* the worker's function is critical to the Minimum Basic Operations of the facility (payroll, safety and sanitation, facility maintenance, etc.). Receiving catch, processing seafood, and delivering product are *not* considered Minimum Basic Operations.

- iv. If workers are going to returning to a congregate working or living situation upon completion of Close Contact Quarantine, employers may not use testing strategies recommended by the CDC to reduce Close Contact Quarantine to less than 14 days. If the workers will be heading immediately home following quarantine without returning to the plant, vessel or bunkhouse, employers may consider the CDC [Options to Reduce Quarantine](#) to 10 or 7 days using PCR testing.
- v. If the facility has enough remaining workers who are not under isolation and/or quarantine to safely continue processing operations, the facility may restart operations once the workspace occupied by the positive case(s) has been completely sanitized.
- vi. Procedures for Close Contact Quarantine.
 - 1. Close Contact Quarantine should be done in an environment with no opportunity for Social Mixing. If an individual is quarantining at home, all other members in the household who cannot maintain social distancing should also be following the same Close Contact Quarantine requirements.
 - 2. During Close Contact Quarantine following a confirmed case in the workplace, workers should be quarantined separately in single rooms unless otherwise directed by a Public Health Nurse or other medical professional assigned to handle the case by the State, with food delivered. Persons at higher risk for COVID-19 infection due to underlying medical conditions should be quarantined individually
 - 3. Commuting workers may be permitted to complete Close Contact Quarantine in their home. If an individual is quarantining at home, all other members in the household should maintain social distancing to the maximum extent possible throughout the quarantine period. If a commuting worker lives with other household members who are at an elevated risk for COVID-19 infection, they should consult with Public Health Nursing for recommended protective measures.
 - 4. Individuals under quarantine should be screened for symptoms and have temperature checks twice a day. Temperature checks may be self-administered.

5. Quarantined workers may not leave their quarantine facility except to receive medical treatment.
6. Should any symptom of COVID-19 develop including a fever, follow the identification protocol in the seafood processing company's Community/Workforce Protective Plan. Seek testing and medical treatment immediately if symptoms are suspected to be caused by COVID-19. Of note: you do not need more than one symptom to be considered at risk of having COVID-19.
7. The employer should retain records of a worker's completion of Close Contact Quarantine, including the dates and location of quarantine, records of twice daily temperature readings, and daily observations of COVID-19 symptoms as identified by the CDC.

XI. Response to Large Outbreaks. An employer's projected strategies for managing reasonable numbers of positive cases should be detailed in the company's CWPP. If the number of positive cases grows beyond the strategies planned for in the company's CWPP, the employer should work with State and local government officials to conduct contingency planning.

- a. **Outbreak Contingency Plans.** For large outbreaks, which exceed the normal capacity of the company to manage easily, State and local government authorities may request that the company develop and submit an Outbreak Contingency Plan, detailing in writing how the company will conduct their response.
 - i. An Outbreak Contingency Plan is not a standing document, it is only developed once the situation exceeds the company's CWPP, and is customized to manage the unforeseen incident.
 - ii. Companies should plan to Isolate and Close Contact Quarantine affected workers on-site if it is safe to do so, locally within the community if it is possible, or to move affected workers to a larger community if no safe options are locally available.
 - iii. Movement of positive workers or Close Contacts between communities for Isolation and Close Contact Quarantine should require an Outbreak Contingency Plan.
 - iv. Elements of an Outbreak Contingency Plan may include:
 1. Movement plans for positives cases and Close Contacts.
 2. Lodging, dining and wrap-around services for Isolated and quarantined workers.
 3. Medical monitoring plans for Isolated workers.
 4. Security considerations at the worksite and lodging site.
 5. Any agreements with local authorities.
 6. Any contractual agreements with other private sector businesses for monitoring, testing, transport or security.
 7. Discontinuation and Return to Work Strategies.

8. Cleaning procedures for the workplace and any vehicles used for transport.
- b. **Public Messaging.** It is highly recommended that employers work with the local government authorities to discuss options for public messaging in the event of a large number of positive cases from a single facility or cases that may be of concern to the local population.

This Appendix supersedes the travel, testing, screening, continuous monitoring, and immediate action procedures for all shore-based processing plant Community/Workforce Protective Plans. All other procedures in previously finalized Community/Workforce Protective Plans remain in effect.

Processor or catcher-processor vessels should follow this Appendix for travel, testing, screening, continuous monitoring, immediate action procedures, and all other procedures in Appendix 02 to Health Order No. 4 or their previously submitted fleet or association Protective Plan.