

# COVID-19 Response and Recovery

## Health Advisory No. 2

### International and Interstate Travel

**Issued:** February 14, 2021

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The purpose of this Health Advisory for International and Interstate Travel is to provide clear guidance for travelers entering Alaska to mitigate the transmission and control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

- I. **Applicability:**** This Health Advisory applies to all persons entering the state of Alaska, whether resident, worker, or visitor. This Health Advisory applies to all forms of travel (land, sea, and air). Children age 10 and under are exempt from the testing recommendation. However, untested children traveling with a parent or guardian should remain in the same status as the parent/guardian.
  
- II. All international and interstate travelers:**
  - a.** Complete a Travel Declaration Form and a Self-Isolation Plan in the Alaska Travel Portal at [www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com](http://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com).
  - b.** Any person currently positive with COVID-19 cannot travel to Alaska until they have been released from isolation, or cleared for travel, by a medical provider or public health agency.
  
- III. Alaska resident and non-resident travelers arriving in Alaska from outside the state should consider one of the following options, with special considerations for Alaska residents outlined in Section IV:**
  - a. Pre-travel molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 with negative results:**

The traveler should submit negative test results from a test taken within 72 hours of departure into the Alaska Travel Portal or have proof of a negative test available to show screeners at the airport upon arrival.

    - i.** A second test taken between five and 14 days after arrival is also strongly recommended.
  
  - b. Pre-travel molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 without results:**

The traveler should submit proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure into the Alaska Travel Portal or have proof available of having taken a test to show screeners at the airport.

- i. The traveler should follow strict social distancing until test results are available.
  - ii. The traveler should upload test results to the Alaska Travel Portal when received, regardless of the test result (negative or positive).
  - iii. The traveler should obtain a second test 5–14 days after arrival.
  - iv. If the molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 result is **positive**, the traveler **must** remain in self-isolation at their own expense. The traveler **must** contact the State of Alaska (1-800-478-0084) and must not travel until cleared by Public Health.
- c. **No pre-travel molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2:** If a non-resident traveler (aged 11 years or older) arrives in Alaska without proof of a negative test result or proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure, they should test at the airport.
  - i. The traveler should follow strict social distancing until test results are available.
  - ii. The traveler should obtain a second test 5–14 days after arrival.

#### IV. **Special Considerations for Alaska Residents**

##### a. **Travel outside of Alaska for less than 72 hours.**

- i. The traveler should obtain a test upon return to Alaska.
- ii. The traveler should self-monitor for any symptoms (even mild ones) for 14 days after arrival.

#### V. **Prior confirmed positive results within 90 days of departure – All Travelers:**

- a. The traveler does not need to obtain a test for SARS-CoV2, either immediately before travel or upon arrival, if both of the following conditions are met:
  - i. The traveler provides proof of a previously positive result of a molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 within 90 days of departure; and
  - ii. The traveler is currently asymptomatic.

#### VI. **Exemptions for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**

- a. Fully-vaccinated travelers should follow pre-travel testing protocols, but do not need to follow strict social distancing while they are awaiting test results.
- b. Fully-vaccinated is defined as more than two weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose series, or more than two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

#### VII. **Recommendations for Critical Infrastructure Workforce (CI) travel:**

- a. All workers arriving in Alaska from outside the state as part of the critical infrastructure workforce, as is defined in the Cyber and Infrastructure Security

Agency (CISA) “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.” [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ECIW\\_4.0\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workers\\_Final3\\_508\\_0.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ECIW_4.0_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_Final3_508_0.pdf), fall under this section and do not qualify for the options listed in Sections II-V.

**b. Arrive with a letter from the employer that:**

- i. Identifies the employer and employee by name; and
- ii. Details instructions on how the employee should travel to their job site in accordance with the employer’s Community Workforce Protective Plan; and
- iii. Confirms the traveler is following the employer’s Community Workforce Protective Plan on file with the State of Alaska that includes testing and/or quarantine provisions.

**c. The categories for the protective plans are below:**

- i. Critical infrastructure is vital to keeping Alaska safe, and, as a result, businesses and employees of critical infrastructure industries should take special care to protect their staff and operations during this pandemic.

If your business is included in the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce,” and your workers must travel to enter Alaska, you should submit a plan or protocol for maintaining critical infrastructure to the [akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com](mailto:akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com). This plan should outline how you will avoid the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger the lives of the communities in which you operate, of others who serve as a part of that infrastructure, or the ability of that critical infrastructure to function.

Companies that have previously submitted plans do not need to submit another; they can proceed under their current plans that have been reviewed by the State.

- ii. Arriving commercial fishing vessel crewmembers, independent harvesters, and arriving seafood processing workers, should follow the procedures in Health Advisory 4 – Critical Infrastructure.

## **VIII. Protocol**

Prior to arrival to Alaska from another state or nation, you should:

- i. Read the available information about safely traveling to Alaska.
- ii. Complete the State of Alaska Travel Declaration Form and the Self-Isolation Plan via the Alaska Travel Portal at [www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com](http://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com).

- iii. Resident travelers and non-resident travelers who choose to take a test prior to travel should submit their results or proof of a test taken within 72 hours or have proof available to show airport screeners.
- iv. Travelers who indicate in the Alaska Travel Portal that they will be in Alaska for five days or more will receive a voucher within the Alaska Travel Portal that can be used for an optional second test five to 14 days after arrival. The voucher allows for a free follow up test at airport testing sites.

## **IX. Definitions**

- a. Self-quarantine:
  - i. Self-quarantine is recommended while waiting for the results of your first molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2.
  - ii. Comply with all protocols related to your self-quarantine as set forth by your hotel or rented lodging.
- b. Strict Social Distancing:
  - i. Strict social distancing is recommended while you wait for test results.
  - ii. You can be in an outdoor public place, but you should remain six feet away from anyone not in your immediate household, and you should wear a face covering. You should arrange curbside shopping or have food delivery.
  - iii. You should not enter restaurants, bars, gyms, community centers, sporting facilities (i.e., ice rinks, gymnasiums, and sports domes), office buildings, and school or daycare facilities. Do not participate in any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals, or other gatherings.
- c. Self-Isolation Plan: Every non-resident traveler entering the state of Alaska should complete a Self-Isolation Plan within the Alaska Travel Portal. This allows travelers to consider their plan for what they will do if their test results return positive while in Alaska.
- d. Alaska Resident:
  - i. Accepted proof of Alaska residency for testing at airport:
    - 1. Alaska driver's license or state-issued ID card.
    - 2. Federally-recognized Alaska tribal identification card.
    - 3. Active duty military ID card or active duty dependent ID card.
    - 4. Employment verification letter on employer letterhead or school verification letter for in-person schooling stating traveler is moving to Alaska for employment or school.

## **X. Other Info**

- a. <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>
- b. <https://covid19.alaska.gov/faq/>

- c. Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.”
  - i. [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version\\_4.0\\_CISA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workers\\_FINAL%20AUG%202018\\_v3.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%202018_v3.pdf)