

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Health Advisory No. 3

Intrastate Travel

Issued: February 14, 2021

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The purpose of this Health Advisory for Intrastate Travel is to provide clear guidance to travelers located on the Road System and the Alaska Marine Highway System, traveling to communities off the Road System and the Alaska Marine Highway System, to mitigate and control the transmission and spread of the COVID-19 virus. In addition, to provide guidance for travelers from communities off the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System, traveling to communities on the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System.

I. Community Restrictions and Critical Infrastructure Access

- a.** Local communities should not prevent individuals traveling for a Critical Personal Need or the conduct of an Essential Service/Critical Infrastructure installation, maintenance, or repair. Other considerations for communities and/or Local Emergency Ordinances are as follows:
 - i.** Communities should not enact protective measures that prevent, delay, or limit emergency travel by Law Enforcement Officers, healthcare workers, or personnel from the Office of Children's Services.
 - ii.** Communities should not prevent local residents from returning home, but can consider enacting protective measures to mitigate potential introduction/spread of the virus, such as encouraging a pre-travel test, a period of strict social distancing after arrival, or bracketed testing before and after that period. Travelers who choose not to test should conduct a full 14-day self-quarantine in their home upon their return, along with all other family members sharing the home.
 - iii.** Communities should not prevent Critical Infrastructure Workers (CI) from traveling or commencing work immediately upon arrival, but can consider enacting protective measures to mitigate potential introduction of the virus and limit social mixing, such as encouraging a pre-travel test, asking CI workers to stay masked and socially distant from community residents, and limiting access to facilities that are not part of the CI workers' worksite or lodging.
 - i.** Critical Infrastructure Workers traveling to small communities in support of emergency requirements should coordinate access with the municipal or

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tribal government representatives of the community, if the situation does not allow time for pre-travel testing, such as a power outage, communications failure, damage to infrastructure, or other situations that require emergency travel.

- iv. Communities can consider enacting protective measures to mitigate potential spread of the virus and limit social mixing, such as requiring seafood workers to stay masked and socially distant from community residents and limiting access and/or patronage hours to local facilities.
- v. Communities should not prevent the travel of work crews engaged in non-essential construction or repair projects and are encouraged to negotiate access requirements with both the company involved in construction and the business or agency that is sponsoring or contracting the construction.
- vi. Communities should not prevent individuals from traveling to conduct subsistence hunting or fishing but can consider enacting protective measures to mitigate potential introduction of the virus and limit social mixing, such as requiring subsistence hunters and fishers to stay masked and socially distant from community residents and limiting access to facilities other than their lodging.
- vii. Communities should not prevent individuals traveling specifically to pursue a Critical Personal Need from traveling to the community, but can consider enacting protective measures to mitigate potential spread of the virus.

II. Testing Recommendations

- a. Traveler from **a community on the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System** traveling to a community off the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System:
 - i. Recommend testing for SARS-CoV-2 using a molecular test 3 days prior to travel.
 - ii. Should follow strict social distancing until negative test results are available.
 - iii. If the traveler does not get a molecular test for SARS-CoV-2, they should follow strict social distancing for 14 days at final destination.
- b. Traveler from **a community off the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System** traveling to a community on the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System:
 - i. For a length of time greater than 72 hours on the Road System and Alaska Marine Highway System, recommended testing for SARS-CoV-2 using a molecular test three days before returning to rural community.
 - ii. Should follow strict social distancing until negative test results are available.
 - iii. If the traveler does not get a molecular test for SARS-CoV-2, they should follow strict social distancing for 14 days at final destination.

- c. Fully-vaccinated travelers should follow pre-travel testing protocols, but do not need to follow strict social distancing while they are awaiting test results.
 - i. 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.
- d. Anyone who is currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus ***must not*** travel until they are cleared from isolation by a medical professional.
- e. Asymptomatic people who have recovered from a documented SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 90 days are exempt from travel testing.

III. Definitions

- a. Road System is defined as any community connected by a road to the Steese, Elliot, Dalton, Seward, Parks, Klondike, Richardson, Sterling, Glenn, Haines, or Top of the World Highways.
- b. Alaska Marine Highway is defined as any community served by the Alaska Marine Highway System or the Inter-Island Ferry System.
 - a. All travelers on Alaska Marine Highway System vessels will follow the travel testing recommendations.
- c. Critical Personal Needs is defined as those needs that are critical to meeting a person's individual or family needs. Those needs include buying, selling, or delivering groceries and home goods; obtaining fuel for vehicles or residential needs; transporting family members for out-of-home care, essential health needs, or for purposes of child custody exchanges (to include child travelers); receiving essential health care; providing essential health care to a family member; obtaining other important goods; engaging in subsistence activities; pursuing formal (primary, secondary or collegiate) education or educational research; applying for a job; traveling for voting; and the inspection and maintenance of personal property.
- d. Critical Infrastructure Workforce: 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
- e. Strict Social Distancing:
 - i. Strict social distancing is recommended while you wait for test results.
 - ii. You may 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 may 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. You should not participate in any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals, or other gatherings.

IV. 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.”
https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ECIW_4.0_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_Final3_508_0.pdf