

COVID-19 RECOVERY HEALTH ADVISORY NO. 4 Critical Infrastructure

Issued: February 14, 2021
Revised: May 27, 2021
Effective: June 01, 2021

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The State of Alaska is revising COVID-19 Recovery Health Advisory No. 4, Critical Infrastructure. This advisory goes into effect June 01, 2021 at 12:00 a.m.

1. **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Definition.** For purposes of this Health Advisory, the State of Alaska has adopted the Federal guidance published by the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “*Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.*” Version 4.0 of the CISA guidance published on August 18, 2020, and as further amended:
https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf.
2. **Community/Workforce Protective Plans.** All businesses in Alaska are encouraged to conduct a thorough review of their business practices and develop a plan to mitigate the potential spread of the virus within their workforce and to their customers. Businesses that have workers traveling to and within the State are encouraged to develop a Community/Workforce Protective Plan (CWPP) in order to safeguard their workers and the communities that they operate in. Businesses are no longer required to submit CWPPs to the Unified Command for review.
 - a. Recommendations for protective measures during entry travel can be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command/protective-plans/>.
 - b. Additional considerations for workplace protective measures under the Hierarchy of Controls can be found here: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>.
 - c. The instructions for CWPPs, in conjunction with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), establish the minimum guidelines for protective measures recommended by the State of Alaska. Employers may choose to enact measures that meet or exceed these recommendations. Employers that choose not to enforce these protective measures are making the decision to accept additional risks to their workforce and the surrounding communities.

- d. All federal, state, local, and tribal government entities are expected to establish internal policies to limit the impact of COVID-19 on their operations. Government agencies may elect to develop protective plans for contracted businesses to follow. If contracted companies have not been directed to follow a plan developed by the government agency that they are contracted with, they are encouraged to develop their own plan if they have workers arriving to the state, or moving between Alaskan communities.
3. **Vaccination and Quarantine Recommendations for Persons in Congregate Living and Working Conditions.** As recommended by the CDC and the Alaska Division of Public Health, all persons who are eligible to be vaccinated should be vaccinated. Upon vaccination, the need for further isolation and quarantine when exposed to COVID-19 are severely reduced.
 - a. The CDC has provided Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>, which includes conditions under which a fully vaccinated person may forego Close Contact Quarantine.
 - b. The Alaska Division of Public Health has published clarifying Public Health Recommendations for Asymptomatic Persons, available here: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/HumanCoV/QuarantineGuidanceSeafood.pdf>. These recommendations give employers additional guidance for making the risk decision to allow fully-vaccinated persons to forego Quarantine. While these recommendations were written specifically for the Seafood Industry, they can also be used as a guide for other businesses that have workers in congregate living and working conditions, until the CDC can pass industry-specific guidance.
 - c. If a person is not vaccinated
 - i. **And** they are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2, the safest course of action is for them to quarantine for 14 days to reduce the risk of spreading the virus should they become infected. The CDC has provided Options to Reduce Quarantine for Close Contacts, available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>. It is strongly recommended that these testing options not be used to shorten Close Contact Quarantine for unvaccinated persons who live and/or work in close congregate settings.
 - ii. **And** is a critical infrastructure worker, they may be allowed to work during their quarantine period only if their organization would be unable to maintain operations safely without them. Allowing exposed individuals to continue to work carries inherent risk, and should only be done on a case-by-case basis as a last resort to maintain the continuity of essential services.

4. Industry Specific Guidance Provided by Other References

- a. Medical Treatment Facilities and Health Care Workers (HCWs) should continue to follow the guidance for HCWs from the CDC, DHSS, and the appropriate Licensing Board. Guidance from all State professional licensing boards is available here: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx>.
- b. School districts and educators should continue to follow the guidance published by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).
- c. Arriving or transiting aircrew members, employed by interstate or international passenger and cargo air carriers, should continue to follow the safety procedures enacted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

5. **Appendix 01, Protective Measures for Seafood Processing Workers.** Appendix 01 to this Advisory provides recommendations to employers who have workers traveling into Alaska to live and/or work in congregate settings at a shore-based seafood processing plant or onboard a processor or catcher-processor vessel.

6. **Appendix 02, Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels.**

Appendix 02 of this Advisory has been rescinded.

- a. Independent commercial fishing vessels are strongly encouraged to follow the CDC's Interim Guidance for Ships available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html>.
- b. Additional considerations for the health of crewmembers is available from the CDC here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/crew-well-being.html>
- c. All crewmembers in transit to and within the State should follow the recommendations in Health Advisories No. 2 and No. 3.
- d. Independent commercial fishing vessels operating in Alaskan waters and ports must be aware of, and adhere to, local Emergency Ordinances enacted by the communities that they operate in.

7. **Appendix 03, Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters.**

Appendix 03 of this Advisory has been rescinded.

- a. Independent commercial fishing harvesters are strongly encouraged to follow the CDC's recommendations for Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-infrastructure-sectors.html>.
- b. All commercial fishing harvesters in transit to and within the State should follow the recommendations in Health Advisories No. 2 and No. 3.

- c. Site Managers must be aware of, and adhere to, local Emergency Ordinances enacted by the communities that they operate in.
8. **Appendix 04, Acknowledgement Form for Commercial Fishing Vessels and Harvesting Sites.** For the 2021 season, the State of Alaska is no longer requiring fishing vessels or harvesting sites to sign an Acknowledgement Form. Seafood processing companies, and their tender vessels, may require vessels or harvesting sites to provide some form of the Acknowledgement Form prior to accepting any fish, or making any payment for fish.

This Advisory may be amended, and additional Advisories may be issued to address mitigation efforts to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.