

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2020-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL REQUIRING TRAVELER QUARANTINE, THAT RESIDENTS STAY HOME AND “HUNKER DOWN,” AND CONTINUING ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm the City of Unalaska health system and economy of our community, endangering the lives and wellbeing of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the virus a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska and Governor Dunleavy has implemented several health mandates such as the closure of schools, services and businesses to help reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Mayor Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. declared a local emergency in the City of Unalaska, authorizing the City Manager to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 through the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-16, declaring a local emergency to remain in effect for so long as the declaration of a Public Health Disaster in the State of Alaska Remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-17, requiring certain quarantine measures, closing non-essential businesses and requiring that residents “hunker down” and stay at home as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, that order expired automatically, by its terms on April 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-19, extending the requirements in Resolution 2020-17 and instituting additional measures to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, that order expires automatically, by its terms on April 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of April 23, 2020, there were 337 known COVID-19 cases in the state, including a recent travel-related case in Bethel, and a case in Nome, both geographically isolated, rural communities; and

WHEREAS, to date, there are no known cases in the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose a grave and imminent threat to the health, safety, order and welfare to the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended everyone wear a cloth face covering when in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; and

WHEREAS, local health officials have advised that in addition to practicing social distancing and staying at home as much as possible, additional measures that include the covering of an individual's nose and mouth will prevent asymptomatic individuals with COVID-19 from unknowingly spreading the disease; and

WHEREAS, local health officials have advised that stronger protective measures are required given Unalaska's remoteness, lack of road access to the mainland, and the fact that the majority of our community's businesses are designated as essential, critical or support critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local health officials have advised that stronger protective measures are required to conserve limited local healthcare resources, as they strive meet the needs of all community members and essential workforce employees; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall have the same effect as a rule issued by the City Manager pursuant to Unalaska Code of Ordinances §2.96.040.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL:

1. **Governor Mandates.** Everyone in the City must follow all health mandates issued by Governor Dunleavy, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

2. **CDC Guidance.** It is strongly recommended, in accordance with CDC guidance, that certain individuals within the City should take even greater precautions:

- a. Anyone particularly at-risk from COVID-19 should reduce exposure by staying at home, not physically going to work, and not doing their own shopping if possible. People particularly at risk of complications from COVID-19 include those 60 years and older and individuals of any age with a serious underlying medical condition. Household members of those who are at elevated risk should implement these more stringent guidelines as well, to the extent possible.
- b. Anyone more likely to be contagious with COVID-19 should not leave home except to obtain medical care or to get fresh air. People who are more likely to be contagious include individuals exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, including coughing, shortness of breath, and fever.

3. **Previous Council Action.**

- a. Resolution 2020-17 was effective March 25, 2020 and expired on April 15, 2020.
- b. Resolution 2020-19 was effective April 14, 2020 and is set to expire on April 29, 2020. Resolution 2020-19 clarified and strengthened aspects of Resolution 2020-17 and

instituted additional measures to protect public safety. It did not revoke or rescind any aspect of Resolution 2020-17, with the exception of paragraph 6, regarding traveler quarantine, which has been modified in accordance with subsequent State of Alaska Mandates. The remainder of Resolution 2020-17 was incorporated in to Resolution 2020-19. The requirements in paragraph 4 are also subject to State of Alaska Health Mandate 11.

4. **Hunker Down.** Everyone currently in the City of Unalaska (the "City") shall stay at home as much as possible, except:

- a. to work at or visit an open business;
- b. to buy, sell or deliver groceries or other important goods;
- c. to receive or provide health care; and
- d. to get fresh air without contacting others.

On the limited occasions when individuals leave home, they should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person outside their household, whenever possible. Individuals are also encouraged to practice recommended hygiene, including regular hand washing.

5. **Face Coverings.** All customers and visitors of businesses and organizations that are open and operating must wear face masks covering their nose and mouth to provide additional protection for employees and customers. The face coverings need not be medical-grade masks or N95 respirators, but can be cloth face coverings. Face masks may be temporarily removed as necessary and incidental to utilizing the business or service.

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts or towels.

A business owner or operator may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear face coverings as required by this resolution.

6. **Traveler Quarantine.** A person traveling into the City of Unalaska by vessel or airplane must self-quarantine for 14 days upon arriving at their destination and monitor for symptoms of illness. During travel and following the quarantine period, adherence to CDC guidance, State of Alaska mandates, and local orders or resolutions is required. This includes appropriate social distancing measures and adherence to face covering requirements. People traveling for critical business purposes are required to follow all State of Alaska health mandates, including specifically Mandate 12, and the Alaska Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order, including complying with their approved state plans.

- a. Critical workforce employees must self-quarantine unless their employer has filed the required protocol with the City as required at paragraph 8.
- b. All workers under the critical workforce exception are required to self-quarantine during non-work hours within the 14 day time period.

7. Essential Business/Critical Infrastructure State Protocols. Businesses identified as “essential” or as “critical infrastructure workforce” under the State of Alaska Essential Business and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order (State Health Mandate 12) and operating in the City shall submit all protocols or plans required by State of Alaska Health Mandate to the Unalaska Department of Public Safety. These plans are to be submitted as soon as possible after filing these protocols or plans with the State of Alaska and regardless of whether the State review of those protocols or plans has been completed. Businesses shall also provide the City confirmation of the State’s approval of its plan or protocol no more than three days after receiving such approval. In the event a business plan or protocol requires amendment or is rejected by the State, the business submitting that plan or protocol must notify the City no more than 48 hours after receiving the State’s notification of deficiency. Such businesses shall submit their plans, protocols, or relevant notifications to the City by email to COVID19PLANS@ci.unalaska.ak.us.

8. Business COVID-19 Protection Measures and Protocols. All businesses open and operating within the City shall comply with all relevant State of Alaska Health Mandates. All businesses not required to submit protocols to the State in accordance with the Governor’s Mandates, but still serving members of the public at a physical location within the City, shall post “COVID-19 Protection Measures and Procedures” on all entrances to and exits from the business. The “COVID-19 Protection Measures and Procedures” shall include, at minimum:

- a. A brief statement identifying the essential service or critical infrastructure operation permitting the business to continue operations under the “State of Alaska Essential Businesses and Critical Infrastructure Workforce Order” or that portion of Health Mandate 16 that permits the business to be open.
- b. The sanitation measures taken by the business to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- c. The social distancing measures taken by the business to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- d. The description of a process for obtaining goods or services from the business without entering the business, if such a process is at all feasible.
- e. A contact number for individuals to report any violations of these measures to the business owner or designee.
- f. Clearly state that any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may not enter the premises.
- g. Shuttles, van services and taxis shall clearly state that the total number of passengers shall be limited to three.

A “business” for purposes of this rule does not include state, federal or municipal government operations or facilities.

This resolution shall expire on May 13, 2020. The City Council may extend it as necessary, or the City Manager may extend it or amend it pursuant to the emergency management powers under Unalaska Code of Ordinances §2.96 and Resolution 2020-16.

Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective noon on April 29, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on April 28, 2020.



Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: April 28, 2020
Re: Resolution 2020-25

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: City Council approved 2020-17 on March 24, 2020. The focus of Resolution 2020-17 was on hunkering down, traveler quarantine and the closure of non-essential business. This expiration date of Resolution 2020-17 was April 15, 2020. The date was set so that Council could reconsider the action at the April 14, 2020 Council Meeting.

City Council approved 2020-19 on April 14, 2020. Resolution 2020-19 extended and clarified the orders outlined in the Resolution 2020-17, and instituted additional measures protecting the public health. The expiration date of Resolution 2020-19 is April 29, 2020. The date was set so that Council could reconsider the action at the April 28, 2020 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND: The nation, State and our City are in a state of emergency and in the midst of a public health crisis. New or updated State Mandates are coming out on a regular basis. Additional mandates or adjustments may be issued before the Council meeting that may result in a change to this resolution and how it is applied. This situation changes quickly. We are striving to streamline this as much as possible while still addressing the unique needs of our local community.

DISCUSSION: Resolution 2020-25 is provided for your consideration. The new resolution extends the orders in the prior Resolution 2020-19 that apply locally. It has been developed in consultation with our City attorneys to ensure compliance with new State Mandates.

My approach moving forward will be to follow as many state mandates as possible for increased standardization and clarity for all involved. The more we stray from State Mandates the more challenging the related messaging and implementation become. As they do already, the resolutions will simply state that all mandates shall be followed. The **resolution will then focus on *additional* protective measures specific to our local community.** In other words, resolutions will only address what will be different here locally from statewide mandates.

Previous sections from Resolution 2020-19 entitled **Critical Businesses** and **List of Critical Businesses** are not included in Resolution 2020-25 as they are well addressed in state mandates and do not need to be repeated. This has deletion has no impact on the substance of the resolution.

Additionally, the **Closure of Business** section has been removed. The impact of this removal is that Health Mandates 12 and 16 would govern, allowing some additional business to open if they follow health and safety protocols. Previous resolutions closed all business, but allowed businesses identified in Health Mandate 12 to remain open. Because of that, allowing businesses to operate in accordance with Mandate 16 is consistent with the approach Council took previously.

The following items from Resolution 2020-19 remain in Resolution 2020-25, with the revisions noted:

- **Hunker Down** - People should stay at home as much as possible (*minor revisions to remain effective even as mandates change, but no substantive changes*).
- **Face Coverings** - Customers and visitors of businesses must wear a covering over their nose and mouth (*minor revisions made to remain effective even as mandates change, but no substantive changes*).
- **14 Day Traveler Quarantine** - Individuals traveling into the City by vessel or airplane must self-quarantine, with limited exceptions (*no change*).
- **State Approved Plan Submittal** - Business that are required to submit plans to the State, must submit those to the City (*no change*).
- **Protective Protocols** - All business not required to submit plans to the State, must develop basic measures they are taking to protect the public health and post them on their doors (*minor revisions made to remain effective even as mandates change, the 3 passenger limit in taxi vans is now included here*).

ALTERNATIVES: Council may choose to approve, amend or disapprove this resolution.

Should council wish to amend the **Face Coverings** from a requirement to a recommendation, potential wording is as follows, with changes ~~crossed out~~ and additions underlined:

- *Section 5, First Paragraph, First Sentence:* All customers and visitors of businesses and organizations that are open and operating ~~must~~ are encouraged to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth to provide additional protection for employees and customers ...
- *Section 5, Third Paragraph:* A business owner or operator may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear face coverings as ~~required~~ encouraged by this resolution.

Should Council wish to add a **Closure of Businesses** requirement and keep business closed, with the exception of those critical and essential business outlined in Health Mandate 12, potential wording for a new section is as follows:

- **9. Closure of Businesses.** All businesses or entities, including those listed in Health Mandate 16, in the city that are not identified in State Health Mandate 12, Alaska Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order, shall remain closed. All businesses and entities may continue to utilize telecommuting or work from home procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Unknown at this time.

LEGAL: These resolutions are drafted in close collaboration with our attorney's office.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 2020-25.