FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why is the City of Nome requiring a quarantine on arrival from Anchorage?

The Nome region was devastated during the Spanish Flu Pandemic. Citizens and Community Leaders wish to avoid a repeat of this. While medical facilities and medicine have improved over the past 100 years, Nome and surrounding villages are isolated and may still be incapable of handling a fast moving spread of the virus in the community.

What is the Travel Form?

Persons traveling to or through Nome from outside of the Nome Census Area are required to file a Travel Form coming to Nome. This Travel Form can be found on the City’s website www.nomealaska.org or by requesting a Travel Form from travelpermit@nomealaska.org.

What are essential services, critical infrastructure work, and critical personal needs?

Health Mandate 18, issued by Governor Dunleavy on May 22, 2020, defines critical personal needs as:

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; receiving essential health care; providing essential health care to a family member; obtaining other important goods; and engaging in subsistence activities.

Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure Work are defined by the Alaska Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order, attached at the end of this FAQ.

Do people traveling for critical personal needs, essential services and critical infrastructure work need to quarantine?

Yes. The City of Nome is attempting to stop the spread of COVID-19 by limiting interactions between residents and people who have recently traveled outside the region. Essential and critical infrastructure workers may go between their residence and their place of essential work. They may not enter any places of business, must wear a mask around community members not residing in the same household, and should practice enhanced hygiene.

What are quarantine requirements for a traveler coming to Nome?

If someone has traveled from the lower forty-eight states or overseas into Alaska and Nome, the State of Alaska, per the Governor’s mandate, requires those individuals to quarantine for fourteen (14) days. This guideline also applies to essential employees and those traveling for critical personal needs. Essential employees are required by the State of Alaska to file a workforce protection plan with the State and the City of Nome, as well as file a Travel Form with the City.

Travel into Nome from outside of the Nome Census Area for those that have been in Alaska for at least fourteen (14) days prior to travel, requires a Travel Form be filed with the City. Quarantine is still required; however, through a cooperative effort of Norton Sound Hospital and the City of Nome, two options for quarantining are now being offered:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Norton Sound Hospital (NSH) is offering voluntary testing at the airport. A COVID-19 Quick Test will be offered at the terminal. After seven days, you will take a second COVID-19 Quick Test at the NSH. If both tests are negative, you only need quarantine for seven days. The City of Nome will not collect or retain any medical information. All medical information is held by NSH and the hospital determines the end of the individual’s quarantine.

2. The second option is to quarantine for fourteen days at your place of residence, avoiding any interaction with any other resident at the residence. You must not go into any place of business or public gathering space. Food should be delivered to your door to avoid the possibility of a possible spread of the virus.

What does it mean to quarantine in Nome?

- Stay in your home as much as possible.
- Avoid contact with community members during the duration of quarantine.
- Do not enter any places of business or areas where people congregate.
- Request groceries be delivered to your door by family, friends or the grocery stores.
- Complete household business over the phone or online (banking, shopping, utilities).
- It is OK to recreate/subsist in the country; please avoid close contact with those outside your household.
- Remain on your personal property when walking pets or take your pets for a walk out in the country.
- Avoid high-traffic areas if you go to the beach or out on the tundra.
- Avoid any personal interaction with people outside of your household.
- Where a face mask if outside of your home.
- Practice enhanced hygiene: wash your hands frequently; don’t touch your face, mouth or eyes with unwashed hands; sanitize frequently touched areas such as door handles, sinks, faucets, countertops, railings etc. at least daily; cover your mouth and nose with while coughing or sneezing, washing your hands immediately afterwards.

Are the grocery stores offering home delivery?

Yes, both Alaska Commercial and Hanson’s are offering grocery home delivery at this time. Alaska Commercial can be reached at 907-443-2243 and Hanson’s/Safeway at 907-443-5454.

Let’s work together to stop the spread!
To prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the State of Alaska is issuing this Order based on its authority under the Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration signed by Governor Mike Dunleavy on March 11, 2020.

This Order amends and supersedes the document formerly referenced to as “Mandate 010, Attachment A,” and continues to apply to any Health Mandate referencing Attachment A or Critical Workforce Infrastructure. This Order remains in effect until amended, rescinded, or superseded by further order of the Governor.

Functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the COVID-19 emergency for both public health and safety, as well as community well-being. Certain critical infrastructure industries have a special responsibility in these times to continue operations.

I. MANDATORY CLOSURES
   a. All businesses within Alaska, except those specifically exempted below or by other Health Mandates or Attachments, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the state, except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in Section I.c.
   b. For purposes of this Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or corporate or entity structure.
   c. “Minimum Basic Operations” include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
      i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
      ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

II. EXEMPTIONS FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
   a. For clarity, businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).
   b. Quarantine: workers arriving in Alaska from out of state must self-quarantine for 14 days, pursuant to Health Mandate 010. Businesses exempted from Section I are not exempt from Health Mandate 010. See https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command/protective-plans/ for further guidance.
c. Plan Submissions: Businesses with workers who travel from out of state or who travel between communities within the state of Alaska must submit a plan or protocol outlining procedures for avoiding the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to Health Mandates 010 and 012. This plan must be submitted to akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com for review.
d. Businesses exempted from Section I are strongly encouraged to remain in operation. Such businesses shall, to the extent reasonably feasible, comply with social distancing requirements by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.
e. For purposes of this Order, Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure industries and entities in Alaska include:
   i. “Healthcare Operations and Public Health,” which includes:
      1. Hospitals, clinics, home healthcare services and providers, mental health providers, dental emergency services, and other healthcare facilities.
      2. Pharmacies, companies and institutions involved in the research and development, manufacture, distribution, warehousing, and supplying of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology therapies, consumer health products, medical devices, diagnostics, equipment, services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services.
      3. Veterinary care and healthcare services provided to animals.
      4. Businesses performing mortuary, funeral, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services, including funeral homes, crematoriums, cemetery workers, and coffin makers. These businesses are required to maintain compliance with Health Mandates relating to social distancing.
      5. “Healthcare Operations” does not include fitness and exercise gyms or similar facilities.
   ii. “Critical Infrastructure,” which includes:
      1. Public Works, including businesses providing any services or performing any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of public works, such as the Port of Alaska, public works construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil production, mining, logging, roads and highways, public transportation, and solid waste collection and removal.
      2. Transportation/Logistics, including airlines, railroads, taxis, private transportation providers, and public and private mail and shipping services.
      3. Technology/Communications, including businesses providing any services or performing any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of internet and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).
      4. Essential Construction, commercial construction, renovation or repair, including construction of housing.
      5. Critical Manufacturing, including manufacture of products needed for medical supply chains and supply chains associated with transportation,
energy, communications, information technology, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing, wood products, commodities used as fuel for power generation facilities, operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, processing of solid waste, emergency services, and defense. Manufacturing of materials and products needed for medical equipment and personal protective equipment. Businesses necessary for mining and production of minerals, oil, and associated essential supply chains.

6. **Food and Agriculture**, including grocery stores, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, animal/pet food and supply stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of food, beverages, and other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries but also sell other non-grocery products. Food and agriculture, cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing and processing. This includes manufacturers and suppliers of food and items necessary to support of the Food and Agriculture industry.
   a. This includes farmers markets where vendors sell directly to consumers only agricultural products, food items, soaps, and sanitizers.

7. **Home Emergency and Safety**, including establishments that sell products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences or provide home emergency/safety equipment and gear including products for personal protection.

8. **Fishing**, including persons engaged in subsistence fishing and in the fishing industry including the fisherman, processors, guides, and transporters of the fish as well as those under contract with the fisherman, processors, guides, and transporters for provisioning.

iii. “**Financial services sector,**” which includes workers who are needed to: process and maintain systems for processing financial transactions and services, such as payment, clearing and settlement services, wholesale funding, insurance services, and capital markets activities; provide consumer access to banking and lending services, including ATMs, movement of currency (e.g., armored cash carriers); support financial operations, such as those staffing data and security operations centers, appraisals and titling, and key, third-party providers who deliver core services.

iv. “**Public Safety,**” which includes:
   1. “**First Responders,**” including emergency management, emergency dispatch, and law enforcement.
   2. “**Corrections,**” including Department of Corrections, jails and detention facilities, and probation offices.
   3. “**Government Agencies,**” including Court systems, Office of Children's Services personnel acting in an official capacity, Public agencies responding
to abuse and neglect of children, elders, and vulnerable adults, and
Department of Defense Personnel returning from temporary duty or
engaging in mission essential travel.
   a. This includes functions related to returning inmates begin released to
      the place of arrest (it is a “critical personal need” for the inmate to
      travel).

v. “Essential Governmental Functions,” which includes all services needed to
   ensure the continuing operation of government agencies including providing for the
   health, safety, and welfare of the public.

vi. “Essential Business,” which includes:
   1. Businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, and other necessities
      of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
   2. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
   3. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, bicycle-repair, and related
      facilities;
   4. Hardware stores;
   5. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, mechanics, and other service
      providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety,
      sanitation, and essential operation of residences, transportation, and critical
      infrastructure;
   6. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office
      boxes;
   7. Educational institutions facilitating distance learning;
   8. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
   9. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, subject to other
      applicable Health Mandates and Attachments.
   10. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
   11. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or
       supplies necessary to operate;
   12. Businesses that transport goods to grocery stores, supermarkets,
       convenience stores, engaged in the retail sale of food, household consumer
       products, delivery of fuel, or other services directly to residences or other
       critical industries outlined in this health mandate;
   13. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
   14. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
   15. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary
       to assist in compliance with legally-mandated activities;
   16. Childcare facilities, subject to new recommendations for increased hygiene
       and social distancing. Only those who need childcare to work at a critical
       job should use childcare facilities.
III. SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS.
   a. “Social Distancing Requirements” includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

IV. FEDERAL GUIDANCE.

V. PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.
   A violation of a State COVID-19 Health Mandate may subject a business or organization to an order to cease operations and/or a civil fine of up to $1,000 per violation.

   a. In addition to the potential civil fines noted above, a person or organization that fails to follow the State COVID-19 Health Mandates designed to protect the public health from this dangerous virus and its impact may, under certain circumstances, be criminally prosecuted for Reckless Endangerment pursuant to Alaska Statute 11.41.250. Reckless endangerment is defined as follows:
      i. A person commits the crime of reckless endangerment if the person recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to another person.
      ii. Reckless endangerment is a class A misdemeanor.

   b. Pursuant to Alaska Statute 12.55.135, a defendant convicted of a class A misdemeanor may be sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment of not more than one year.

   c. Additionally, under Alaska Statute 12.55.035, a person may be fined up to $25,000 for a class A misdemeanor, and a business organization may be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding the greatest of $2,500,000 for a misdemeanor offense that results in death, or $500,000 for a class A misdemeanor offense that does not result in death.