

**CITY OF GALENA, ALASKA
ORDINANCE 2020-03**

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING GALENA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 8 WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 8.12 INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

WHEREAS, on October 20, 1918, a flu virus (“Spanish Flu”) was introduced to Nome, Alaska by persons traveling to Nome on the S.S. Victoria killing 162 Native Alaskan residents of Nome in eight days; and

WHEREAS, the Spanish Flu spread rapidly through the Bearing Sea and Yukon-Koyukuk regions, devastating the populations of remote communities; and

WHEREAS, during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, only 80 of 150 residents of Teller survived; and

WHEREAS, during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, 72 out of 80 Brevig Mission residents died in a period of five days; and

WHEREAS, during the 1918 flu pandemic Shismaref and Shaktoolik by posting guards and enforcing a rigid quarantine were not infected with the flu virus; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has identified the COVID-19 virus as a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and which poses a significant public health risk; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic is being compared to the 1918 flu pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended all persons at higher risk for COVID-19 complications avoid all nonessential air travel; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the United States State Department issued a Level 4 Travel Advisor “Do Not Travel” advising all United States citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the Norton Sound Health Corporation (“NSHC”) is the primary provider of medical services to Nome and thirteen communities in the Norton Sound region: Gambell, Savoonga, St. Michael, Unalakleet; Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, White Mountain, Council, Teller, Wales, Diomedea and Shismaref (collectively “Village Clinics”); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, NSHC temporarily suspended on site medical visits to Village Clinics “in an effort to safeguard and minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure”; and

WHEREAS, effective March 16, 2020, NSHC is temporarily limiting non-emergency medical travel to and from Nome for patients over sixty years of age, or who are immunocompromised; and

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference operates the Edgar Nollner Health Center and is the primary provider of medical services to the City of Galena and villages in the Yukon-Koyukuk region; and

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference has suspended non-emergency employee travel to and from villages to slow transmission of COVID-19 and preserve health care resources; and

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference is suspending patient travel for all elective appointments to slow transmission of COVID-19 and preserve health care resources; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Alaska issued Covid-19 Health Mandate 004 “to prevent or slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease” which mandated a 14-day self-quarantine for persons traveling from CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice Areas; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Galena City Council adopted Emergency Ordinance No. O-20-01 which declared the COVID-19 threat and its impact a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America recommends persons listen to and follow the direction of local authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Yukon Koyukuk Elder Assisted Living Facility in the City of Galena is home to many of our elders, who are extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 and other infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Galena Interior Learning Academy has returned students to their families and home communities to slow the transmission of COVID-19, pursuant to Commissioner of Education and Early Development Dr. Michael Johnson’s March 16, 2020 memorandum; and