

**CITY OF GALENA, ALASKA  
ORDINANCE 2020-02**

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE CREATING AN ESSENTIAL AIR TRAVEL ZONING DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, on October 20, 1918, a flu virus 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 virus spread rapidly through the Bearing Sea and Yukon-Koyukuk regions, devastating the populations of remote communities; and

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

WHEREAS, during the 1918 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 and 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 (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, the NSHC director of Emergency Medical Services Dr. Mark G. Peterson has recommended limiting air travel between the City of Nome and Village Clinics and between Nome and Anchorage as a reasonable and prudent public health measure to reduce the impact and spread of COVID-19; 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 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 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

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 Edgar Nollner Health Center, excellent work of its health professionals notwithstanding, is inadequate to treat severe cases of COVID-19 and other infectious disease that would occur in Galena, much less those that could occur in the villages, which have very little health care infrastructure; and