



City of Coffman Cove

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MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RE. COVID-19

MARCH 24TH, 2020

ISSUED BY THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF COFFMAN COVE PURSUANT TO AS 26.23.140

For Immediate Release

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a public health emergency that threatens the well-being of rural communities located on Prince of Wales Island that do not have the resources or health facilities available to counteract a widespread and highly contagious virus. The City has received information from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that as of March 24th, 2020, 5 pm AST, there have been eight (8) confirmed cases for COVID-19 in Ketchikan, bringing the total number of positive cases in Alaska to 42.

Individuals in Ketchikan that have been exposed to this virus have been contacted and will be monitored to ensure the mandated 14-day isolation period. Public Health will notify and isolate additional persons as appropriate and will direct testing of persons that meet criteria based on contact with any confirmed case of COVID-19.

Mayoral Proclamation Under State of Emergency to Shelter in Place

Because the COVID-19 virus is so highly contagious, it has already spread rapidly in Ketchikan. If this growth continues at the current rate, by the end of the week Ketchikan could have over 20 positive cases of COVID-19 in the community. Many individuals are seeking isolation in places outside of Ketchikan, including Prince of Wales Island, through ferry service and personal means of transportation. This poses a serious threat to the small, rural communities on the island that have limited resources and/or healthcare facilities to accommodate COVID-19 cases, as well as the large percentage of elderly that comprise much of the population.

Due to the exponential spread of the COVID-19 virus in Ketchikan, and in accordance with the recommendations of the State of Alaska and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Mayor of Coffman Cove is issuing a proclamation strongly urging the citizens of Coffman Cove to **hunker down, shelter in place, and stay home**, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In keeping with the mandates issued by Governor Dunleavy on March 21st, 2020, we remind our citizens to practice social distancing and that **no gatherings of more than 10 people may take place**. If a gathering does take place, people **must** be six (6) feet

apart from each other. Owners of businesses which are non-essential, to the extent possible, are urged to close for a period of at least 14 days. Vital services such as emergency, fire, and grocery stores will remain fully functioning, open and available so the needs of community members remain at the forefront.

Residents who are healthy and do not believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 may shop at grocery stores, but are asked to do so in a timely manner, practicing social distancing.

We encourage citizens to follow these CDC recommendations:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often
- Avoid touching your nose, face and mouth
- Use sanitizer comprised of at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid people who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick, cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect surfaces, and remember that you could be asymptomatic but still carrying the virus

If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus, you should take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.coronavirus.alaska.gov.



Jacki Sunde, Mayor