

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Health Advisory No. 4

Critical Infrastructure

Issued: February 14, 2021

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The purpose of this Health Advisory for Critical Infrastructure is to provide clear guidance for Critical Infrastructure businesses operating in the State of Alaska, in order to protect communities and industries in which they serve.

1. **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Definition.** For purposes of this Health Advisory, the State of Alaska has adopted the Federal guidance published by the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.” Version 4.0 of the CISA guidance published on August 18, 2020, and as further amended
https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf.
2. **Community/Workforce Protective Plans.** All private sector Critical Infrastructure Businesses that have staff arriving from outside the State of Alaska, and/or staff traveling to or between communities off the road system or Alaska Marine Highway System, are strongly recommended to submit a Community/Workforce Protective Plan (CWPP) to the Alaska COVID-19 Unified Command.
 - a. Detailed instructions for developing and submitting CWPPs can be found at: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command/protective-plans/>.
 - b. The instructions for CWPPs, in conjunction with Health Advisories No. 2 and 3, establish the minimum standards for protective measures recommended by the State of Alaska. Employers are strongly encouraged to enact measures which meet or exceed these standards. Employers that choose not to enforce these standards are making the decision to accept additional risk to their workforce and the surrounding communities.
 - c. Private sector businesses, which do not meet the travel definitions above, are also strongly encouraged to develop a CWPP using the posted instructions but are not recommended to submit those plans to the Unified Command.
 - d. All Federal, State, local, and tribal government entities are expected to establish internal policies for travel, testing and quarantine, but they do not have to submit those policies to the Unified Command. Government agencies may elect to develop protective plans for contracted businesses to follow. If contracted

companies have not been directed to follow a plan developed by the government agency that they are contracted with, they should develop and submit their own plan if they have workers arriving to the State or moving between Alaskan communities.

- e. School districts should continue to follow the guidance published by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and submit any required protective plans to DEED at: AKsmartstart2020@alaska.gov.
- f. Arriving or transiting aircrew members employed by interstate or international passenger and cargo air carriers should continue to follow the procedures in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Safety Alert for Operators (SAFO) 20009, dated 29 Sep 2020, and all future revisions. In lieu of a CWPP, interstate and international air carriers should submit an affidavit to the Unified Command stating that they will follow the FAA SAFO. Alaska-based air carriers are strongly recommended to develop and submit a CWPP to the Unified Command.

3. Appendix 4-01, Enhanced Protective Measures for Seafood Processing Workers.

Appendix 4-01 to this Alert applies to all resident employees and all workers traveling into Alaska to work in a shore-based seafood processing plant or onboard a processor or catcher-processor vessel.

- a. Seafood processing companies are still strongly recommended to develop and submit CWPPs using the posted instructions. The protective measures enacted by the company CWPP should meet or exceed the requirements of Appendix 4-01.

4. Appendix 4-02, Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels.

Appendix 4-02 of this Alert applies to all independent commercial fishing vessels operating in Alaskan waters and ports.

- a. For the purposes of this Alert, “independent commercial fishing vessels” are defined as all catcher and tender vessels that have not agreed to operate under a fleet-wide plan submitted by a company, association, or entity that represents a fleet of vessels.
- b. Independent commercial fishing vessels operating in Alaskan waters and ports should enact the protective measures and procedures described in Appendix 4-02, the Alaska Protective Plan for Commercial Fishing Vessels. Vessels are not expected to develop or submit a stand-alone Community/Workforce Protective Plan. Appendix 4-02 serves as their CWPP.
- c. Vessel captains should enact controls on their vessel to ensure crewmember compliance with this Health Advisory and the Appendices.

5. Appendix 4-03, Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters.

Appendix 4-03 of this Alert applies to all independent commercial fishing harvesters who are harvesting catch from Alaskan waters.

- a. For the purposes of this Alert, “independent commercial fishing harvesters” are defined as all commercial fishing harvesters who do not meet the definition for independent commercial fishing vessels above, and that have not agreed to

- operate under a fleet-wide plan submitted by a company, association, or entity that represents a fisheries sector.
- b. Independent commercial fishing harvest operations in Alaskan waters should enact the protective measures and procedures described in Appendix 4-03, the Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters. Harvesting sites are not expected to develop or submit a stand-alone Community/Workforce Protective Plan. Appendix 4-03 serves as their CWPP.
 - c. Site Managers should enact controls at their harvesting operation to ensure harvester compliance with this Health Advisory and the Appendices.
6. **Appendix 4-04, Acknowledgement Form for Commercial Fishing Vessels and Harvesting Sites.** For the 2021 season, each commercial fishing vessel captain and/or owner and each harvesting site manager should sign a copy of Appendix 4-04, Acknowledgement Form, prior to actively participating in the 2021 commercial fishing season. This is highly recommended for all vessels, even those operating under a fleet or association protective plan. To promote the safety of the fishing fleet, tenders and processors are strongly encouraged not to purchase catch from vessels or harvesting sites that have not signed a copy of Appendix 4-04.
- a. Prior to accepting any fish or making any payment for fish to an independent fishing vessel, a tender or processor should receive and confirm a signed copy of the vessel's Acknowledgement Form. The vessel captain should submit a copy of the Acknowledgement Form the first time they sell fish to a tender or processor. Electronic copies of pictures or scans of the signed hard copy of the Acknowledgement Form are acceptable. Subsequent sales to the same tender or processor do not require submission of another copy of the Acknowledgement Form (e.g., the form only needs be submitted once per fishing season per tender or processor), but every tender or processor that a commercial fishing vessel sells to should have, and retain until December 31, 2021, a signed copy of the Acknowledgement Form. This form should be provided to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game upon request.
 - b. By accepting the Acknowledgement Form, the tender or processor may rely upon the submission of the Acknowledgement Form as proof of compliance of this Health Advisory. The tender or processor is not required to confirm compliance with this Health Advisory, other than to collect the Acknowledgment Form, and assumes no liability for any failure to comply by any commercial fishing vessels or harvesting sites.

This Alert may be amended, and additional Alerts may be issued to address mitigation efforts to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.