

Debra Thompson

From: jbdavies@kpunet.net
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:43 PM
To: BoroughAssembly@juneau.org; wwmas@muni.org; mayor@muni.org; cityclerk@fairbanks.us; council@fairbanks.us; assembly@cityofsitka.org; assembly.departmentheads@cityofsitka.org; Assembly; clerk@wrangell.com; administrator@craigak.com; cityclerk@craigak.com; edevries@palmerak.org; nalley@palmerak.org; mayor@city.kodiak.ak.us; bhammond@nomealaska.org; lonnie.mckechnie@matsugov.us; clerk@cityofseward.net; cityclerk@kenai.city; spierce@valdezak.gov; council@soldotna.org; clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov
Cc: anne.zink@alaska.gov; ben.stevens@alaska.gov; adam.crum@alaska.gov; Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov; Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.com; Diane Liljegren; kims@ktn-ak.us; Jack and Bev Davies
Subject: Covid Resolution sent to Governor Dunleavy asking for a state quarantine mandate
Attachments: Covid stats for WA ANC AK JNU 8620.docx; COVID Resolution No. 20-2787.docx; Covid Ketchikan Daily News Point of View articles 8120.jpeg

I am writing this email to inform other Alaskan communities that last night the Ketchikan City Council voted to send Governor Dunleavy a request to mandate 14 day quarantine with appropriate testing for all arriving interstate and intrastate travelers in Alaska.

Even the new state mandates effective August 11, 2020 are still a swiss cheese approach. Travelers are asked to "practice social distancing" while they await test results. There is a complicated definition for social distancing, allowing the traveler to be active in the community, which no one will read and absolutely no one will enforce. One negative test is not enough. When the viral load is low a false negative will result plus they have at least 72 hours to get infected after being swabbed, with their travel time being quite high risk. We can't afford to allow even one infected person to potentially spread it everywhere in our communities. Instead of trying to flatten the curve Western Australia (WA) has now gone over 100 days with no COVID-19 cases in their general population, the only active cases are travelers already in quarantine. Please see the attached Ketchikan Daily News article explaining how they did it. Also see the Premier, Mark McGowan's Official Facebook page for an easy reference with links to the government website for further details. The resolution refers to the high success this approach is in the state of Western Australia where today they only have 6 active cases, travelers identified already in quarantine, compared to Alaska's total of 3025 active cases. The 14 day quarantine is a proven method in Western Australia and New Zealand where they practice strict enforcement, and now a few US states are implementing it and some Alaskan communities.

This is the link for the Western Australia Government COVID-19 response which includes 14 day quarantine (a model that Alaska could adapt to suit):

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

This is the link for the New York Travel Advisory which includes New Jersey and Connecticut showing Alaska as one of the 35 restricted states requiring Alaskans to 14 day quarantine upon arrival in NY, NJ, CT. No mention of a negative test as an option.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

As of 2 days ago, New York City has checkpoints at all the entry points to monitor arriving travelers for the 14 day quarantine:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/05/899337278/nyc-setting-up-quarantine-checkpoints-for-travelers-from-covid-19-hotspots>

Metlakatla also has a 14 day quarantine with testing required to protect themselves from COVID-19, relevant to the area visited. They also have trackers paid for from the CARES Funds to monitor people arriving and departing the island at the ferry, planes, and the main breakwaters. They have smaller boat launches blocked off with large boulders.

<http://www.metlakatla.com/blogs/mic-pandemic-travel-mitigation-re-opening-plan/>

Bethel is offering to pay travelers accommodation, meals, transport to/from the airport and testing for travelers to quarantine in hotels during their layover.

In 1918 Shishmaref created a guarded blockade at its entry point a distance from town and only allowed people to come within hailing distance. This stopped the spread of the deadly Spanish Flu into their community and all those north of them.

Two days ago, a small cruise ship had to return to Juneau due to COVID-19 on board.

Two days ago, two people returning from Metlakatla from medical in Anchorage had to stay in Juneau due to the escort testing positive for the virus.

Since the communities of Ketchikan, Metlakatla and Prince of Wales all share the Ketchikan airport and hospital it would make sense for those areas to be in cooperation with each other.

With Ketchikan schools planning on opening at full capacity soon, unlike Juneau and Anchorage with distance-learning, it is imperative we stop hoping we stay lucky and get proactive in doing something to protect ourselves. The 14 day quarantine of all travelers has been proven to do that. As mentioned previously, Western Australia has celebrated 100+ days with no cases in their general population, only those travelers in the 14 day quarantine (in self-quarantine in an appropriate premises or in a hotel).

Ketchikan wouldn't need to be spending \$2.5 million on testing because with COVID-19 eliminated from our community the need for testing everyone, often, would be less. We wouldn't be constantly fearing an outbreak, or superspreader event, that could overwhelm our very limited resources and we wouldn't be risking crippling shutdowns to our economy, as Anchorage is facing right now.

Please remember the incubation period for COVID-19 is up to 14 days so one negative test isn't enough. The traveler could get tested in the first few days of exposure and not have a high enough viral load to test positive plus there is that 72 hours to get exposed before arrival in Ketchikan. A second negative test in that 14 days with quarantine is needed. The sooner an arriving traveler in quarantine is tested the sooner contact tracing can begin if they test positive and the quarantine reduces the risk of cheaters. Ketchikan doesn't have the authority to impose travel restriction as per the municipal attorney so a travel mandate from the state is needed.

Trying to flatten the curve isn't working but 14 day quarantine with strict enforcement has been proven to work. Please pass a similar resolution, to go to Governor Dunleavy, in your communities so Ketchikan and others lacking the authority to enact a quarantine travel mandate can get protected from this debilitating virus. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bev Davies
Ketchikan
907-225-2747
907-617-7207

8/06/20	Western Australia (pop. 2.6 million)	Alaska (pop. 745,000)	Anchorage (pop. 288,000)	Juneau (pop. 31,974)
New cases	0	67 (53r+ 14n)	31 (29r+2n)	3 (3r+0n)
Active cases	6	3025 (2449r+ 576n)	1481 (1406r+75n)	114 (56r+58n)
Recovered	627	1238 (1062r+176n)	679 (624r+55n)	53 (41r+12n)
In Hospitals	0	37 (ICU on vent 3)	Unknown	Unknown
Deaths	9	25*	13*	1*
Total cases	642	4288 (3536r+752n)	2173 (2043r+130n)	168 (98r+70n)

*Alaska residents only

CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2787

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT A MANDATORY FOURTEEN-DAY QUARANTINE HEALTH MANDATE FOR ALL INTER-STATE AND INTRA-STATE TRAVEL WITH APPROPRIATE TESTING UPON ARRIVAL AS A MEANS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THE OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is currently experiencing a rapid growth in the COVID-19 infections and the increasing number of cases puts Alaska's economy and people at risk; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operates under the Incident Command System (ICS) and includes a coordinated multi-agency response with members from local municipal governments, health care providers, and other local, state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the State EOC has an ongoing role to advise the State of Alaska, local governments, and the citizens of Alaskan communities on health protection matters that will impact and assist the communities to mitigate emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, as well as those of natural and human made disasters; and

WHEREAS, enacting traveler quarantines at state borders can protect Alaska from COVID-19 devastation; and

WHEREAS, the state is in a unique position geographically to institute travel restrictions similar to the state of Western Australia, which can provide a blueprint for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Western Australia is large and sparsely populated similar to Alaska and implemented a border quarantine early in the COVID-19 pandemic and has had no community spread of COVID-19 for 100+ days, which has allowed schools to be open, people to move and work freely in the economy and masks are not mandated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska as follows:

Section 1: The Council formally requests the Governor to work with the State EOC to enact a mandatory fourteen-day quarantine health mandate for all inter-state and intra-state travel with appropriate testing upon arrival in Alaska based on what has been successful in Western Australia. The Council proposes enacting the mandatory fourteen-day quarantine health mandate for all inter-state and intra-state travel with appropriate testing upon arrival between communities in Alaska until it is demonstrated that community spread is no longer an issue. Since the incubation period for COVID-19 is up to fourteen days, a fourteen-day travel quarantine with appropriate testing creates a secure safety net to keep the virus out of Alaska communities and the state. The Council urges the Governor and State EOC to commit to a plan and adopt a statewide approach built on health protection policies, standards and plans that will protect all Alaskans.

Section 2: By implementing protections statewide, Alaska can set an example for the rest of the country by reopening the state using proven methods. By implementing an effective mandatory travel quarantine now, Alaska can work towards eliminating community spread in a short time and our children will be able to go back to school, parents can return to work and life can return to a more normal scenario.

Section 3: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of August 2020.

Robert Sivertsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Stanker, City Clerk