

Debra Thompson

From: Crum, Adam R (HSS) <adam.crum@alaska.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:04 AM
To: jbdavies@kpunet.net; 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: Zink, Anne B (HSS); Stevens, Ben A (GOV); Stedman, Bert K (LEG); Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.com; Diane Liljegren; kims@ktn-ak.us
Subject: RE: Covid Resolution sent to Governor Dunleavy asking for a state quarantine mandate

Thank you so much for your email and your proactive approach and containing COVID in Ketchikan. As you mention, keeping COVID out is an important tool and strategy, especially in communities like Ketchikan and as you mention a single test approach will miss many cases. This is the reason in our most recent travel updates we tried to build on lessons learned and make the new travel guidelines even more protective. Here a few highlights.

1. By requiring a test 72 hr before entering and not offering a test without payment for non-residents, we hope to have more people get tested before they come. Currently, 52% of travelers do get tested before entering, but we hope to increase this.
2. The new travel portal is designed to encourage people to think about lodging, transportation and other logistics before they get here. This approach has worked well in British Colombia and we are building on it
3. We did not remove the second test – but in fact tried to make the language more clear about the importance on minimizing interaction for a full 14 day period and a test at the end is the only way this can be shortened. We are happy to revisit this language, but the goal was to make it more clear and to really push for that full 14 day incubation period where people who travel are not around others. We also support this second.
4. The Ketchikan EOC and community is welcome to use CARES funds like Bethel for food and lodging to support travelers. As mentioned, travelers now have to detail their whole plan for the 14 days to minimize that interaction.

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From: jbdavies@kpunet.net [mailto: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@petersburgak.gov; 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: Zink, Anne B (HSS) <anne.zink@alaska.gov>; Stevens, Ben A (GOV) <ben.stevens@alaska.gov>; Crum, Adam R (HSS) <adam.crum@alaska.gov>; Stedman, Bert K (LEG) <senator.bert.stedman@akleg.gov>; Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.com; Diane

Liljegren <dliljmit@kpunet.net>; kims@ktn-ak.us; Jack and Bev Davies <jbdavies@kpunet.net>

Subject: Covid Resolution sent to Governor Dunleavy asking for a state quarantine mandate

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
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