



Petersburg Medical Center

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November 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and Assembly Members,

I am writing as a representative of the Petersburg Medical Center (PMC) Incident Command Team for the COVID-19 crisis. This is a follow up to my letter dated July 4th, 2020 in support of appropriate actions to keep the community open using proper precautions.

- Hygiene – hand washing.
- Masking/ Facial Coverings in indoor public spaces.
- Reduce gathering and keep social bubble small.

We are heading into almost a year of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The last 3 weeks have seen triple digit increases in COVID cases in the state of Alaska. Multiple Alaskan rural communities are in complete lockdown to prevent the further spread of case. The past week reported almost triple the amount of hospitalizations due to COVID in Alaskan tertiary care facilities.

Petersburg has experienced a spike with cases but due to the rapid response the risk appears to be mitigated. I applaud the PMC team, the community, school, public health and Borough Incident Command Team response. As activities and people are pushed indoors from winter we anticipate an increase number of cases. The basic strategy of the virus continues with tracking, isolating and treating cases. Contact tracing is ever more important to make sure it stops potential spread. As we have seen even in a small amount of cases impacts our workforce, school and hospital. Our workforce and students have to stay home if they are a close contact. PMC staffing depth is razor thin and any impact to our healthcare workers may mean we have to shut whole departments / services down. We need to follow basic precautions to keep our community healthy and COVID free.

Thank you for taking this into consideration,

Phil Hofstetter, CEO/Incident Commander
Petersburg Medical Center