



PETERSBURG BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #4

Intrastate Traveler Testing

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough Assembly is committed to minimizing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Petersburg's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 testing that has been conducted at the James A. Johnson Airport for the last several months has been successful in alerting the Petersburg Medical Center and Emergency Operations Center to positive cases coming into the community; and

WHEREAS, it is in Petersburg's best interest to continue to provide for the voluntary testing of intrastate travelers coming into the Borough via the James A. Johnson Airport or the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry terminal, in order to quickly discover and isolate infected persons who come to Petersburg from within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued recommended guidelines that recognize the significantly lower risk that fully vaccinated persons pose in terms of contracting and spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the conditions of this Health Alert are designed to provide the least necessary restrictions.

Accordingly, the Petersburg Borough Assembly issues the following Public Health Alert:

The Petersburg Borough Assembly recommends that all intrastate travelers arriving into Petersburg at the James A. Johnson Airport or the AMHS ferry terminal be tested prior to or upon arrival, with details as follows:

1. All persons traveling into Petersburg via the James A. Johnson Airport or the AMHS ferry terminal from another Alaskan community are encouraged to have a COVID-19 molecular-based PCR test within 72 hours of their departure to Petersburg, if possible, and provide proof of a negative test at the airport. A second COVID-19 test, between five (5) and fourteen (14) days after arrival is also recommended. Use of the State of Alaska Travel Portal app is required for free testing at the airport.
2. Travelers who have tested in another Alaskan community within 72 hours before departure for Petersburg but who do not yet have a negative test result, should provide proof of the molecular-based PCR test and utilize the State of Alaska Travel Portal app to provide necessary information. A second COVID-19 test, between five (5) and fourteen (14) days after arrival is recommended. The second test is free via use of the State Travel Portal app and is available at the airport.

3. Travelers who did not receive a COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to arriving into Petersburg are recommended to be tested at the James A. Johnson Airport upon arrival. There is no charge for the test. Use of the State of Alaska Travel Portal app will be necessary to receive a test upon arrival. A second COVID-19 test, free at the airport, between five (5) and fourteen (14) days after arrival is also recommended.
4. Intrastate travelers arriving at the AMHS ferry terminal may utilize the State Travel Portal to receive a test at the airport, just as if they had arrived by air.
5. The testing recommendations of this Alert do not apply to fully vaccinated travelers; however, such travelers are free to test upon use of the State of Alaska Travel Portal app (covidsecureapp.com). Fully vaccinated intrastate travelers are requested to undergo a screening process at the airport and to show proof of vaccination, such as a vaccination record card. Fully vaccinated travelers shall follow all local and state mandates and guidance pertaining to COVID-19 protective measures.
6. Any person currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus is prohibited from traveling until they are cleared from isolation by a medical professional.
7. The testing recommendations of this Alert do not apply to asymptomatic persons who have recovered from a documented SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 90 days. Such travelers are requested to show proof of a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result and a clearance letter from a medical doctor.
8. Testing will be via PCR “send out” tests and not a rapid test. Results will be reported to the Petersburg Medical Center (PMC). PMC will notify travelers of their result and recommend medical attention upon any positive result.
9. The State of Alaska Public Health Nurse will be notified of any positive result in order to begin contact tracing and isolation of any infected persons. Any traveler that tests positive shall follow directions for isolation and quarantine given by the Public Health Nurse.
10. Intrastate travelers should take all precautions to avoid the potential spread of COVID-19 for a minimum of five (5) days after arrival. Recommended actions include:
 - (a) Asymptomatic Passengers: Travelers arriving without symptoms should take common precautions to protect themselves and others until the traveler has knowledge of a negative test result:
 - i. Use of face coverings in public settings and other instances where physical distancing cannot be met, and compliance with any state or local face covering mandates.
 - ii. Frequent hand washing or sanitizing.
 - iii. Maintain a 6' distance from others as much as possible.
 - iv. Avoiding crowded areas.

v. Covering all coughs or sneezes.

(b) Travelers experiencing symptoms or developing symptoms after arrival, regardless of a negative test result:

vi. Isolate yourself and avoid being around others.

vii. Call local COVID hotline to seek medical guidance, at (907) 772-5788.

viii. Use of face coverings except when completely alone.

ix. Frequent hand washing or sanitizing.

x. Avoiding crowded areas.

xi. Covering all coughs or sneezes.

11. Travel into Petersburg by students and employees of the Petersburg School District (PSD) shall be governed by PSD's November 3, 2020 COVID-19 Travel Protocol, as amended from time to time by the Petersburg School Board. This Mandate shall apply in the event that Protocol is rescinded.

12. Travel into Petersburg by workers in critical infrastructure workforce shall be covered by the instructions and protocols contained in the employer's Community Workforce Protective Plan on file with the State. If a Plan has not been filed, or if that Plan does not contain protections or protocols for workers traveling into remote communities from the employer's general work site, workers shall be guided by the provisions of this Health Alert. Emergency travel by such critical infrastructure workers shall be coordinated with Petersburg EOC.

13. Children 10 years of age and younger are exempt from the testing recommendations set out above, however they should comply with the precautions of paragraph 10.

14. The provisions of this Health Alert shall not apply if the recommendations would delay or limit emergency travel into the Petersburg Borough by Law Enforcement Officers, healthcare workers, or personnel from the Office of Children's Services.

15. Commercial Fishing Vessels, Seafood Harvesters, and Seafood Processing Workers: Such workers shall follow all State of Alaska Health Advisories or Mandates that are applicable to this industry.

16. Definitions.

(a) Fully-vaccinated is defined as more than two weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose vaccine series, or more than two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

17. This Health Alert will remain in place until June 30, 2021 unless sooner rescinded by the Borough Assembly, or until the State of Alaska terminates the COVID-19 Screening and Testing Contract at the James A. Johnson Airport, whichever first occurs.

Issued by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on April 19, 2021.

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk