
MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR JENSEN AND PETERSBURG ASSEMBLY
FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, UTILITY DIRECTOR/EOC INCIDENT COMMANDER
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED MANDATE CHANGES - SUMMARY
DATE: 4/13/2021
CC: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER
DEBRA THOMPSON, CLERK



In response to recent Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance that addresses the significantly reduced risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission among fully vaccinated people, the EOC is recommending some changes to various mandates, for the Assembly's consideration.

Health Alert #4 - Intrastate Travel

Mandate #9 was put in place to require mandatory testing of all in-state travelers coming into the Borough via the James A Johnson Airport or the State ferry system. At this time, and primarily due to the increased vaccination rate within Petersburg's region of the state and the state as a whole, the recommendation is to downgrade the intrastate mandate to an intrastate travel Health Alert. This will encourage testing of intrastate travelers, but it will no longer be mandatory.

Health Mandate #10 – Interstate/International Travel

Mandate #10 requires testing of travelers arriving at Petersburg on Alaska Airlines or on the AMHS ferry from out of state. This mandate is recommended to remain in place due to the lag of vaccination in many lower 48 states and in foreign countries. It remains prudent to require testing of travelers so that we do not unknowingly allow the virus to enter the community unchecked. However, due to recent CDC guidance regarding the safety of travel for fully vaccinated persons, the recommendation is to forego testing and isolation criteria for travelers that are fully vaccinated and can verify that with a vaccination record card.

Health Mandate #5 – Harbor Facility – Vessel Mooring and Disembarkation

Mandate #5 was developed to assert formal control over mooring of, and disembarking from, cruise ships and like vessels in Petersburg in order to prevent COVID-19 infected individuals from entering the community and spreading the virus. At this time, many of the smaller cruise lines that visit Petersburg are focusing their operations on offering cruises to fully vaccinated passengers and manning their vessels with fully vaccinated crew. While the EOC is still recommending retention of control over mooring and disembarkation into Petersburg with a call to our Health Officer Dr. Tuccillo, the revised language gives a nod to the lesser threat that fully vaccinated vessels pose to Petersburg. This revision will offer greater confidence to cruise lines that choose to visit and enjoy Petersburg under a fully vaccinated policy and will bolster economic recovery for many of our local businesses that depend on visitors for success, both while remaining safe for Petersburg's residents and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.