



PETERSBURG BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE #10

Interstate and International 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, one measure available to protect the community is to conduct COVID-19 testing on individuals arriving into the Borough and require such individuals to take certain precautions prior to receipt of a negative result; and

WHEREAS, these measures and precautions assist in identifying and protecting against positive cases before significant community spread can occur; and

WHEREAS, the James A. Johnson Airport and the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry terminal are the primary points-of-entry for persons traveling into Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough, under State of Alaska funding, has been conducting COVID-19 testing at the James A. Johnson Airport for the last several months; and

WHEREAS, this testing is available for those traveling both by air and by AMHS ferry; and

WHEREAS, this testing is currently scheduled to continue until the end of June, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this testing has been instrumental in alerting the Petersburg Medical Center medical and Emergency Operations Center to positive cases coming into the community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has modified its travel orders to recommend, rather than require, the testing of interstate and international travelers into Alaska; and

WHEREAS, it is in Petersburg's best interest to continue to require the testing of interstate and international travelers coming into the Borough via the airport and the AMHS ferry terminal, in order to quickly discover and isolate infected persons who arrive in Petersburg from outside the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has however recognized the significantly reduced risk that fully vaccinated travelers pose for the contraction and transmission of COVID-19, and recommends that no testing or isolation is needed for fully vaccinated travelers within the United States, recommendations that the Borough wishes to support; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough has the authority to implement temporary travel testing mandates relating to such air and sea travel to Petersburg in order to protect the health of all people living in and traveling to the community; and

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

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

Application: This Mandate applies to all travelers arriving into the Petersburg Borough at the James A. Johnson Airport or the AMHS ferry terminal from outside Alaska. Except as otherwise set out herein, all travelers must comply with one of the following testing options, with a special consideration for fully vaccinated travelers in paragraph 5. Travelers arriving at the AMHS ferry terminal shall utilize the State Travel Portal to receive a test at the airport, just as if they had arrived by air.

1. Pre-travel molecular-based PCR test for SARS-CoV2 with negative results:

The traveler must submit negative test results from a test taken within 72 hours of departure into the Alaska Travel Portal or have proof of a negative test available to show screeners at the airport upon arrival.

A second test taken between five and 14 days after arrival is recommended, but not required.

2. Pre-travel molecular-based PCR test for SARS-CoV2 without results:

The traveler must submit proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure into the Alaska Travel Portal or have proof available of having taken a test to show screeners at the airport. The traveler must also complete day-of-travel screening forms in the State of Alaska Travel Portal app at www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com as may be amended from time to time by the State of Alaska. The traveler must upload test results to the Alaska Travel Portal when received, regardless if negative or positive result.

A second test taken between five and 14 days after arrival is recommended, but not required.

3. No pre-travel molecular-based PCR test for SARS-CoV2:

If a traveler arrives in Petersburg without proof of a negative test result or proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure, they will be required to test at the airport. There is no charge for this test. The traveler must also utilize the State of Alaska Travel Portal app at www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com to complete day-of-travel screening forms that may be amended from time to time by the State of Alaska. The traveler must upload test results to the Alaska Travel Portal when received, regardless if negative or positive result.

A second test taken between five and 14 days after arrival is recommended, but not required.

4. Current and Prior Confirmed Positives.

Any person currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus is prohibited from traveling into the Petersburg Borough until they are cleared from isolation by a medical professional.

A traveler who has recovered from a documented SARS-CoV-2 infection is exempt from travel testing hereunder, provided that the traveler is currently asymptomatic and provides proof of a previously positive result of a molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 within 90 days of arrival and provides a letter of COVID-19 clearance from a medical doctor.

5. Fully Vaccinated Individuals.

Fully-vaccinated travelers must participate in the screening process upon arrival, but are not subject to pre- or post-travel testing or strict social distancing requirements. Testing is available for fully vaccinated travelers at no cost, if desired and upon use of the State of Alaska Travel Portal app. If no testing is desired, fully vaccinated travelers are exempt from the requirements of paragraph 6 below.

Proof of vaccination, in the form of a completed vaccination record card, will be requested during the screening process.

6. All travelers must utilize the Alaska Travel Portal at www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com and complete day-of-travel screening forms as may be amended from time to time by the State of Alaska.

7. Travelers who test upon arrival in Petersburg, or who arrive in Petersburg with proof of a test, but no results, are required to follow strict social distancing for a minimum period of five (5) days after arrival, or until a negative result is obtained, whichever is longer.

(a) "Strict social distancing" means

(i) You may be in an outdoor public place, but you must remain six feet away from anyone not in your immediate household, and you must wear a face covering. You may arrange curbside shopping or have food delivery.

(ii) You cannot enter restaurants, bars, gyms, community centers, indoor sporting facilities office buildings, and school or daycare facilities. Do not participate in any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals, or other gatherings.

8. Interstate or International 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.

9. Interstate or International 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 governed by the provisions of this Mandate. Emergency travel by such critical infrastructure workers shall be coordinated with Petersburg IOC.

10. Children 10 years of age and younger are exempt from the testing requirements set out above, however they should comply with the strict social distancing requirements of paragraph 8.

11. Commercial Fishing Vessels, Seafood Harvesters, and Seafood Processing Workers: To the extent that the testing requirements of this Mandate exceed the recommendations of any State Health Advisory applicable to such workers, the provisions of this Mandate shall govern.

12. Definitions.

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

13. This Health Mandate 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 Johnson Airport, whichever first occurs.

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

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk