



NEWS RELEASE

Kodiak Area Emergency Services Organization

For Immediate Release – March 13, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update – No. 4

Emergency Services Director Urges Residents to Be Informed about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Kodiak, Alaska — As of March 13, 2020, State officials confirmed the first COVID-19 in Alaska.

In addition to proper hygiene, we are recommending community members be familiar with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidance on social distancing (see the links below).

Stay home if you are sick with a respiratory illness, and if you develop a fever, remain at home for 24 hours after the fever subsides. Stay at least 6 feet away from someone who is coughing, sneezing, or feeling feverish. People who are sick, or have concerns about someone else, should first call Public Health at 211 or Providence Nurse Hotline at (907) 212-6183 and follow instructions.

We are recommending that people avoid large gatherings or crowded places as much as possible. Agencies and organizations with large events planned should consider postponing them until more information regarding COVID-19 is available. Consider avoiding non-essential travel to protect the community, and avoid shaking hands and other personal contact as much as possible. People who are 60 years and over, and persons with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes have been identified as high-risk.

Businesses should consider implementing methods to limit close personal contact until further information is available regarding COVID-19. Consider the use of videoconferencing for meetings when possible, or hold a meeting in an open, well-ventilated space. Assess the risks associated with air travel, and we encourage liberal leave policies or telecommuting options for staff when appropriate or available.

Below are helpful links from CDC concerning community mitigation strategies, helpful information for event planners, and information for faith based organizations.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html)

[CDC's guidance for religious and faith-based organizations](#)

The Kodiak Area Emergency Services Organization is working daily with federal, state, and local partners including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor any changes. The City of Kodiak is requesting residents refrain from purchasing more of an item than you or your family may need. We are a resilient community with a reputation of coming together in times of need. Local stores continue to receive weekly supplies.

The City water supply has access to more than 4 million gallons of treated, safe drinking water. Consider utilizing reusable containers and becoming less reliant on disposable plastic bottles.

We urge the public to remain calm, stay informed by reliable news sources, and we will continue to share more information as we are updated at the state and federal level.

For the most updated information on this outbreak please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

For further information, contact Francis de la Fuente, Public Information Officer at 486-8000

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