

Lake and Peninsula Boroug P.O. Box 495

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TO: Residents of Lake and Peninsula Borough

FROM: Mayor Glen R. Alsworth, Sr.

DATE: March 9, 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Fellow Residents,

Since the December 2019 discovery of the Coronavirus, its spread has dominated news reports. We are all concerned about the spread of the coronavirus and its impact on our community, our families, and our loved ones. For that reason, I'm writing to share with you several things that the Borough is doing, and that we can all do to take care of ourselves and each other. The purpose of this notice is to emphasize and acknowledge the concern, inform the residents of current efforts, and to assure everyone to take preventative measures.

First, over the last couple of weeks we have been in touch with the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center, and Department of Health and Social Services, the Lake and Peninsula School District, and have reached out to BBAHC and Southwest Regional Health. We are all working together to secure the health and safety of all Alaskans.

Second, before I get to the steps all of us can and should take, let me tell you some of the practical facts everyone should know:

- It's important for all of us to align our efforts around a single lead agency. In Alaska, that is the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). Because it is expected that DHSS will have a heavy workload in the near future, they have formed a division of Emergency Operations to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note this is DHSS EOC, and not the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). DHSS EOC email is <a href="mailto:dhsseoc@alaska.gov">dhsseoc@alaska.gov</a> and non-medical information hotline is 907-269-3046.
- At the moment there are no confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Alaska. Obviously, that's subject to change, but you need to know where we are, as of now.
- While the complete clinical picture of the coronavirus is not fully understood, the main symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Most of the illnesses so far have been mild and have not required hospitalization. Those most at risk are older persons and people with chronic medical conditions.
- At this point our shared priority is prevention. Each of us can play a role in preventing the spread of germs.

Lake and Peninsula Borough residents will all pull together, we will all work together, because we all care for each other. It's just who we are—and we should all be proud of that.

As we learn more, and as the situation changes and evolves, Borough staff will continue to put out more letters and emails.

Sincerely,

SIR alaward

Mayor Glen R. Alsworth, Sr.

## **Prevention tips**

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

## **Coronavirus Resources**

(To access the links below, click the text while pressing down on the CTRL button on your keyboard)

- Latest from the CDC
- Latest from Alaska Department of Health
- Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities
- What to do if someone is sick
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Recommendations
- Preparing your household
- Community Events & COVID-19