

Memorandum

Borough Manager John Moosey



DATE: April 13, 2020 (for Public Release on April 20, 2020)
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: John Moosey, Borough Manager
SUBJECT: Manager's Notes to the Assembly

AKDOT&PF Announces Community Transportation Program Projects – See attached Press Release dated April 10, 2020 announcing four borough road projects were selected for the Community Transportation Program: Seldon Road Extension Phase II (Wasilla), Hemmer Road Upgrade Extension North to Bogard Road (Palmer); South Trunk Road (Nelson Road) Improvements (Palmer); and Hermon Road Upgrade and Extension (Wasilla).

FY2021 Vetoes of State Funding – Items of Interest – See attached Items of Interest, and the response letter from Mayor Halter to Governor Dunleavy dated April 8, 2020.

COVID-19 Coronavirus –

- Links to the most recent updates and information:
 - DHSS website: www.coronavirus.Alaska.gov
 - CDC website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
 - MSB website: <https://matanuska-susitna-borough-coronavirus-covid-19-msb.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Senate Passes Economic Stimulus Package for COVID-19 Outbreak – See attached Press Release from Senators Murkowski and Sullivan dated March 18, 2020
- 2020 US Census – The US Census Bureau is suspended field operations through April 1, 2020. See attached press release dated March 18, 2020.
- Small Business Administration Approves Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Alaska, Alaska Congressional Delegation Press Release, March 21, 2020
- DHSS Press Release, March 22, 2020
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski Press Release, March 23, 2020
- Mat-Su Regional's COVID-19 Response, March 23, 2020
- SBA Guide for Small Business Owners to the CARES Act, April 1, 2020
- Dr. Anne Zink's Power Point Presentation during Press Release April 2, 2020
- City of Houston, Alaska Emergency Proclamation Declaration of a Public Health Disaster April 3, 2020
- Mat-Su Health Foundation News Bulletin, April 3, 2020
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers, Department of Labor

Food and Basic Needs Discussion – On Thursday, March 26, 2020, Mat-Su Health Foundation, United Way of Mat-Su, and Palmer Rotary were among over 30 representatives from over 12 active and

concerned nonprofits/organizations throughout the Borough, who “gathered” via teleconference. Deputy Manager George Hays reported the focus was to coordinate and discuss the status of what they are doing to provide food and housing for MSB residents in need. Collectively, these organizations provide hundreds of meals for seniors and thousands of meals for children daily. Mat-Su service providers (housing, food, senior, children, tribal organizations) are doing a great deal to help our citizens. However, they are all facing some of the same struggles, including: getting and training volunteers; getting food and supplies from local stores that limit sales; and getting personal protective equipment (PPE). Many shared very valuable information on how to train volunteers, where to get PPE, and how to drop off food with “no touch” deliveries. Future discussions will likely explore and consider the possibility of bulk purchasing, storage and distribution, and potentially exploring a central location where people can donate to help others. The theme evidenced by the closing comments was that we will get through this together by relying on each other. Our MSB Emergency Manager will participate in these events for the future.

US DOT Announces \$20.3 M Grants to Improve Transportation Access Through Innovative Technologies – The Federal Transit Administration announced awards for the Integrated Mobility Innovation Grant. See the press release attached dated March 16, 2020.

The Borough will receive funding on behalf of four rural transit providers to implement a platform that centralizes dispatch, fleet management, call-taking and payment across providers. The system will assign trips to the lowest-cost, eligible provider and allow riders flexible request and payment options. The Mat Su Health Foundation will provide the required match. This Central Dispatch system is one of the items implementing the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan that was adopted by the Borough Assembly in November 2018. The Borough, along with the Health Foundation and transit providers will implement the pilot project and be the steward of the ridership data to allow all transit and transportation agencies and the public to view it, through a link that will be on the borough webpage.

Federal Support for Port MacKenzie EDA Grant Application – See attached letters from Congressman Young, Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski.

Funding for Larson and Chelatna Lake Weirs – See attached letter to Governor Dunleavy, Valley Legislators, and ADF&G Commissioner Lang dated March 31, 2020, requesting funding stay intact for the Fish Weirs at Larson and Chelatna Lakes. Commissioner Vincent-Lang responded via email on April 13 that they hope to be able to operate the Judd and Larson weirs this summer. However, at this time they are unable to continue the Chelatna weir.

FY2021 Budget Requests from School District – See attached letter from Superintendent Goyette dated March 31, 2020.

FY2021 Budget Request from Fish and Wildlife Commission – See attached letter from Mike Wood, Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair, dated April 3, 2020.

Attachments:

- AKDOT&PF Press Release re Community Transportation Program Projects, April 10, 2020
- Vetoes of State Funding – Items of Interest
- Mayor Halter’s letter in Response to Vetoes of State Funding, April 8, 2020
- COVID-19 Coronavirus –
 - Senate Passes Economic Stimulus Package for COVID-19 Outbreak Press Release, March 18, 2020.
 - US Census COVID-19 Update, March 18, 2020
 - Small Business Administration Approves Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Alaska, Alaska Congressional Delegation Press Release, March 21, 2020
 - DHSS Press Release, March 22, 2020
 - Sen. Lisa Murkowski Press Release, March 23, 2020
 - Mat-Su Regional’s COVID-19 Response, March 23, 2020
 - SBA Guide for Small Business Owners to the CARES Act, April 1, 2020
 - Dr. Anne Zink’s Power Point Presentation, April 2, 2020
 - City of Houston Disaster Declaration and Resolution, April 3, 2020
 - Mat-Su Health Foundation News Bulletin, April 3, 2020
 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers, Department of Labor
- US DOT Announces \$20.3 M Grants to Improve Transportation Access Through Innovative Technologies, March 16, 2020
- Congressman Young’s letter in Support of EDA Grant for Port MacKenzie, March 24, 2020
- Senator Sullivan’s letter in Support of EDA Grant for Port MacKenzie, March 24, 2020
- Senator Murkowski’s letter in Support of EDA Grant for Port MacKenzie, March 26, 2020
- Letter to Governor Dunleavy, Valley Legislators, and ADF&G Commissioner Lang re Fish Weirs Funding, March 31, 2020
- FY2021 Funding Request Letter from Superintendent Goyette dated March 31, 2020
- FY2021 Budget Request Letter from Fish and Wildlife Commission, April 3, 2020

Upcoming Activities:

- Borough Press Conference, April 14, 2020 at 11am via Facebook Live:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MatSuBorough/videos/> (Available to all. No Facebook account required.)

John MacKinnon
Commissioner

www.DOT.Alaska.Gov



Department of Transportation
and Public Facilities

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 10, 2020

Contact: Meadow Bailey, meadow.bailey@alaska.gov, (907) 451-2240

Alaska DOT&PF Announces Community Transportation Program Projects

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is announcing local projects that were selected for the Community Transportation Program (CTP).

Projects were selected from community nominations ranked by a Project Evaluation Board, the total federal funding available was \$56 million.

The Project Evaluation Board last met in 2011 to rank projects for the 2012-2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP.) The CTP was put on hold as a result of changes in federal funding and project balancing in the STIP.

"This program is intended to provide much needed funding for community routes," said DOT&PF Commissioner John MacKinnon. "We're proud of the program and pleased to be able to make it available again."

Selected projects are:

- Seldon Road Extension Phase II (Wasilla)
- Akakeek, Ptarmigan, and DeLapp Street – Heavy Use Road Improvements (Bethel)
- Hemmer Road Upgrade Extension North to Bogard Road (Palmer)
- Fort Yukon Road Improvements and ROW Safety (Fort Yukon)
- Redoubt Avenue and Smith Way Rehabilitation (Soldotna)
- Cordova Second Street Upgrades (Cordova)
- South Trunk Road (Nelson Road) Improvements (Palmer)
- Kiana Community-wide Drainage Improvements (Kiana)
- Healy Spur Road (Healy)
- Nome Front Street Resurfacing and Rehabilitation (Nome)
- Ruby Slough Road Phase II Final Design and Construction (Ruby)
- Kodiak Otmeloi Way Reconstruction (Kodiak)
- Hermon Road Upgrade and Extension (Wasilla)

The CTP projects will be added to the 2020-2030 STIP in Amendment 1. Projects are scheduled for design in 2020-22, with construction scheduled for after 2023.

All projects that were submitted by communities for consideration were required to include cost sharing. At a minimum, community sponsors provided the required minimum federal match. Communities that committed additional funds were awarded more points in the scoring process.

Additional information is available on the [CTP website](#).

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 239 airports, 10 ferries serving 35 communities, over 5,600 miles of highway and 776 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to "**Keep Alaska Moving** through service and infrastructure."

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Veto of State Funding - Items of Interest:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated emergency orders the following items will be funded through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act so state funding has been vetoed.

- Community Assistance – Veto \$1,268,500 DGF (FY2021) and \$30,000,000 UGF Supplemental Deposit
- Regional Educational Attendance Area – Total: \$36,739,000 UGF
- School Bond Debt Reimbursement – Total: \$100,154,200 UGF/DGF
- Anchorage Response Grant – Total: \$2,700,000 UGF
- One-Time Education Funding Outside of the Formula – Total: \$30,000,000 UGF
- One-Time AHFC Homeless Grant – Total: \$5,000,000 UGF
- Non-Mandatory Municipal Debt Reimbursement – Total: 2,354,400 UGF

Medicaid – Veto \$31,000,000 (FY2020 Supplemental, UGF/Federal)

- DHSS is on track to meet Medicaid projections and does not need additional money.
- Alaska will be provided additional federal match through the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Earnings Reserve Transfer to Corpus – Veto \$1,055,600,000

- In FY2020, the Legislature transferred \$4 billion to the principal of the Permanent Fund with the intent it would cover inflation proofing for four years. Excess transfers of authority from the earnings reserve to the corpus of the Permanent Fund reduces the state's liquidity and the ability to pay permanent fund dividends per statutory obligation, and the ability to respond to future revenue shortfalls.

Alaska Marine Highway System – Veto \$15,548,300 UGF and DGF

- The remaining level of funding is a net increase from FY2020 and will provide an increased level of service for coastal communities.
- Capital budget funding will ensure that necessary Aurora steel work is completed to reduce service gaps in the System.
- The results of the reshaping study are due this fall and will inform the future of the system.

Ocean Rangers – Veto \$3,426,000 Other

- Permitting and compliance staff will still monitor cruise ships for compliance with State wastewater and air quality permits and regulations through records reviews, inspections in port, opacity monitoring, and vessel tracking by retaining \$2,000,000 for ambient water testing.

Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation – Veto \$2,763,500 Other

- In the current economic and fiscal environment performance bonuses for state employees should not be considered at this time.
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University of Alaska – Veto \$12,500,000 UGF

- The agreed upon compact, between the administration and the university, provides adequate funding for university operations. The university will receive additional support through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Pre-Kindergarten Grants – Total: \$4,300,000 UGF

- \$11.5m remains in the budget for Pre-K and Early Learning programs. \$6.8m for Headstart, \$2m for Pre-K, \$1.2m for Early Childhood, \$0.5m for Parents as Teachers, and \$0.3m for Best Beginnings.
- Given the current economic and fiscal environment, this new program has been vetoed.

Public Broadcasting – Veto \$2,036,600 UGF for Radio, \$633,300 UGF for TV

- With access to grants, federal funding, and other innovative sources of funding, Alaska Public Broadcasting will continue to provide services to Alaskans and will prioritize its services to reach the Alaska communities that most need news and information.

Travel Reductions – Veto \$1,097,700 all funds

- This veto action removes legislative increases to State travel.
- Agencies will rely on technology and management efficiencies to reduce the amount of State travel in light of the COVID-19 situation.

Increased State Funding in the Following Areas has been Retained to Address Critical State Needs:

Programs and Services Related to the COVID-19 Emergency (\$99,091,100 UGF, \$116,591,100 total)

- Public Health Emergency Programs for COVID-19 response
 - HB234 - \$15,000,000 UGF, Open ended Federal Authority
 - HB206 - \$4,091,100 UGF, \$9,000,000 Federal
 - HB205 - \$75,000,000 UGF
- Grants to Coastal Communities – \$8,500,000 Other funds
- Medicaid – Federal Authority
- Labor and Workforce Development, Workforce Services– Federal Authority
- Labor and Workforce Development, Unemployment – Federal Authority

Other Items Funded

- Disaster Relief Fund Deposit – \$5,000,000 UGF
- Fire Risk Reduction Funding – \$5,000,000 UGF
- Redistricting Funding - \$2,500,000 UGF
- Economic Development Funding - \$546,600 UGF
- Rural Power Systems Upgrades - \$5,000,000 UGF
- Additional support for the Village Public Safety Office Program - \$3,000,000 UGF
- Additional Authority to hire Trooper Positions and for Equipment - \$10,864,300 UGF
- Funding for Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Exams - \$200,000 UGF
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute Operating Costs to Achieve Full Capacity - \$9,366,400 UGF and Other



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

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Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
Alaska State Capitol, Room 305
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: FY2021 Budget

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I would like to first thank you for the leadership you have shown throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The timely actions you have taken have helped to keep Mat-Su Borough residents relatively safe. Your staff should also be congratulated for their unending efforts to date. We recognize there remain challenging times ahead, but these days will be followed by a significant economic recovery. If there is anything Mat-Su Borough can do to further assist in this effort just let us know.

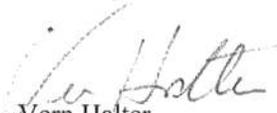
In regards to your \$4.5 Billion State operating and capital budget, we fully understand the financial exigencies that the State, as well as local governments, is facing given limited resources. It has been reported that you are pursuing the use of some of the COVID-19 federal funds to replace, or offset, certain vetoes. This approach would address a potentially serious funding shortage related to reimbursement of the school bond debt program.

The loss of these funds equate to a two-mill increase for Mat-Su Borough citizens, which is 20% of the current area-wide tax rate. This amount of loss of revenue in one year would immediately put the Mat-Su Borough in a financial exigency. In the event COVID-19 funds cannot be used directly to fund the school bond debt program, perhaps the State could transfer funds from the budgets, which do receive COVID-19 funds, to the school bond debt program. We encourage a review of all funding options as a full loss of these funds creates an immediate financial exigency on the residents of the Mat-Su Borough.

While we feel the State should honor its commitment of full funding of the school bond debt program, even a **partial** funding would ease the financial exigency.

Thanks again for the leadership you and your staff continue to exhibit during these trying times. There remains a bright future for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,


Vern Halter
Mayor

cc: Assembly
Todd Smoldon
John Harris

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2020

Senate Passes Economic Stimulus Package for COVID-19 Outbreak *Secures Paid Emergency Leave, Enhances Unemployment Insurance, Strengthens Food Security*

Washington, DC – The U.S. Senate today overwhelmingly passed the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* aimed at bolstering the federal government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help mitigate the health and economic impacts of the outbreak. The bill ensures COVID-19 testing is free for Americans, secures paid sick leave as well as family and medical leave, enhances unemployment insurance to help workers, and ensures that students, seniors, and low-income households can continue to access nutrition assistance. The bill now heads to the President to be signed into law.

“We are all focused on the coronavirus and the impacts it is having on Alaska, across our nation, and around the globe. I’m encouraged that we’ve already seen so many Alaskans coming together in incredible ways—supporting, encouraging, and helping each other through this difficult time,” **said Senator Murkowski**. “Everyday life looks very different for most right now. Significant steps have been taken in Alaska and around the country, out of an abundance of caution, to keep our communities healthy and safe as we contain the spread of the virus. In the Senate we have been working with the Administration to help shore up the health of our economy and to ensure that Alaskans, and all Americans, have the support they need. This bill is a significant first step. This is an evolving situation, but we are taking this pandemic and the economic and health impacts incredibly seriously. I will continue to work to ensure the unique needs of Alaska are addressed.”

“The COVID-19 outbreak, in addition to the clear health risks, has unleashed a great deal of disruption and anxiety into all aspects of our lives,” **said Senator Sullivan**. “While far from perfect, by passing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act today, Congress is acting boldly and in a bipartisan way to ensure all Americans have access to testing, while also providing a stronger temporary social safety net for those who are sick or are caring for ill loved ones, as well as bolstering Alaska’s unemployment insurance program and funneling significant resources to the state’s SNAP and WIC programs. Alaskans should know that Congress’s work is far from finished. We are already working on a much bolder package—a historic injection of capital liquidity—for our small businesses in Alaska and across the nation. I’m also pushing for a PFD-like payment to hard-working Alaskans to help get them through challenging times. Working together, we will get through this. I am confident we will find ourselves stronger and more resilient when we get through this challenge.”

Bill Highlights:

Free Coronavirus Testing: The bill provides funding to cover the costs of COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider, urgent care center and emergency room visits in order to receive testing. This

ensures that coverage must be provided at no cost to the consumer, including for individuals without health insurance.

Tribal Health System: The bill includes funding to cover the full cost of COVID-19 tests for all American Indians/Alaska Natives regardless of whether the test is received within, or outside of, the Indian health system.

Paid Leave: To support individuals in need of additional leave time as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, the bill:

- Provides up to 80 hours of paid sick leave for self-isolation, care due to symptoms, and for care of a sick family member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Supports leave time to care for a child if the school or place of care is closed due to the outbreak.
- Includes a provision of up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave during a public health emergency to employees who have been employed for 30 days who have a qualifying need for leave and by employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers.
- Allocates funding for the Internal Revenue Service to implement tax credits for paid sick and paid family and medical leave is also included.

Unemployment Insurance: Supplies emergency grants to states for costs associated with processing and paying unemployment insurance benefits such as for staffing, technology, systems, and other administrative costs. States which experienced at least a 10 percent increase in unemployment would be eligible to receive an additional grant to assist with costs related to unemployment spike and would be required to take steps to temporarily ease eligibility requirements that are limiting access to unemployment insurance such as work search requirements and required waiting period. These provisions complement flexibility the U.S. Department of Labor has given states to approve unemployment benefits for those who have been laid off due to coronavirus.

Food Security: Strengthens food security initiatives through additional investments for low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs or are laid off due to the emergency, support for food banks to meet increased demands due to emergency, and nutrition for seniors. Ensures children who depend on free and reduced-priced meals have access to food during school and child care closures. This complements an announcement by USDA that they are expanding a pilot program approved for Texas and Alaska to deliver boxes of shelf-stable foods to low-income rural children who cannot access meals provided by schools or child care centers.

Medicaid: Increases the Federal share of Medicaid payments by 6.2 percent.

Background:

- In an effort to better prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, [Senators Murkowski and Sullivan recently voted in favor of an emergency supplemental funding package, the *Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*](#), which includes a total of \$8.3 billion. The bill aims to strengthen the federal response to the coronavirus outbreak and allow for necessary precautions, prevention, and treatment at the local, state, national, and international levels.

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MARCH 18, 2020 — Less than one week ago, the 2020 Census fully kicked off, and invitations continue to arrive in mailboxes across the nation. **As of this morning, more than eleven million households have responded. America is stepping up to shape our future and ensure families and communities are counted.**

Beginning today, in support of guidance on what we can all do to help slow the spread of coronavirus, 2020 Census field operations will be suspended for two weeks until April 1, 2020. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone going through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions.

During this pause in field operations, the Census Bureau will continue to evaluate all 2020 Census operations. Should any additional adjustments need to be made, the Census Bureau will communicate these changes broadly and promptly.

In late May, census takers around the nation will begin visiting households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census to help complete the count. As we continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, we will adjust census taker and survey operations as necessary in order to follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities.

The public is strongly encouraged to respond to the 2020 Census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and can also respond by phone or mail. Everyone should respond to the 2020 Census as soon as they receive their invitation — and when they're finished, they can make sure their friends, families and social networks know about the importance of responding.

It has never been easier to respond to the census, and the 2020 Census will count everyone accurately. We recognize that many people plan to access the 2020 Census through other response modes, such as phone or paper, which is

why the 2020 Census has such a nimble design.

On March 15, 2020, the Census Bureau announced several adaptations to our group quarters operations to accommodate recent scheduling changes on college campuses as leadership takes action to keep students and faculty safe.

For all other Census Bureau household and economic surveys separate from the 2020 Decennial Census, Bureau personnel will begin using phone calls instead of in-person visits. In the limited number of instances where an in-person visit is necessary, we are working closely with public health authorities to ensure each visit is accomplished safely.

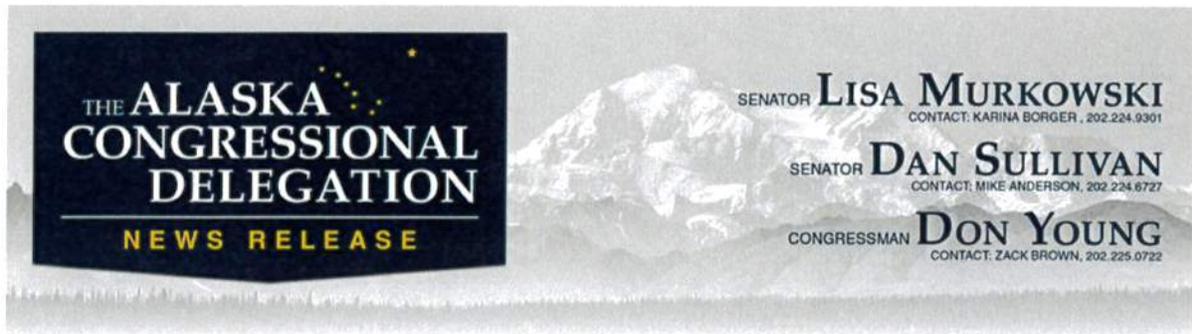
Once again, we encourage everyone to respond online today at 2020Census.gov. With the flexibility and support of the American people, we will achieve a complete and accurate count which helps guide funding decisions for things like hospitals, roads and emergency services. Respondents can also respond by calling the number provided in their invitation or by mail once they have received a paper form.

Contact

Public Information Office

301-763-3030

pio@census.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2020

Small Business Administration Approves Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Alaska

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Alaska Congressional Delegation announced the availability of economic injury disaster loans for Alaska small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. The Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus, pursuant to the recently passed *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*.

“We are in an unprecedented time with a pandemic impacting the everyday lives of Americans, including Alaskans,” said **the Congressional Delegation**. “In just a matter of days, we’ve heard from Alaskan business owners who have been forced to make drastic changes, including large layoffs. We are pleased to see that the SBA is going help provide much needed low-interest working capital for our local small business as they navigate this uncertain time. While there is much work ahead, we continue to work across all sectors of the federal government to provide the needed assistance that is and will be required for everyone impacted by this terrible virus. These loans, along with other efforts currently being negotiated in Congress, will help to ensure that our economy will be able to weather this storm.”

BACKGROUND:

- An Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the COVID-19.
- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower’s ability to repay.
- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government’s coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.
- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- Visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> for more information.

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Adam Crum
Commissioner

dhss.alaska.gov



**Department of Health
and Social Services**

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Clinton Bennett, DHSS, (907) 269-4996, clinton.bennett@alaska.gov

Ten new cases of COVID-19 detected in three Alaska communities

March 22, 2020 ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services today announced 10 new cases of COVID-19 in three Alaska communities – Anchorage (7), the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (2) and Juneau (1).

All cases were in adults; none were hospitalized. All of these persons are isolating themselves at home and their close contacts are being asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. One of the Anchorage cases had recent travel outside of Alaska. The remaining cases are not known to be travel-related at this time. The Section of Epidemiology is continuing to investigate these cases in cooperation with Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, the Anchorage Health Department and local public health nurses.

“At least two of the new Anchorage cases that we are investigating have no clearly identified contact with a confirmed case,” said Dr. Joe McLaughlin, Alaska’s State Epidemiologist. “This indicates that community transmission of COVID-19 appears to be occurring in the Anchorage area.”

Travelers arriving from anywhere outside of Alaska should self-quarantine for 14 days, per the [March 20th Alaska Health Alert](#). Find more information about how to keep yourself and your family healthy at coronavirus.alaska.gov.

Please note on March 23, 2020, DHSS will be shifting to provide daily case count updates on our website later in the day as most laboratory reports are being reported in the afternoon. Thank you.

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From: "Press Office (Murkowski)" <Press_Office@murkowski.senate.gov>

Date: March 23, 2020 at 5:58:24 PM AKDT

Subject: Murkowski Speaks On COVID-19 Pandemic



NEWS RELEASE
LISA MURKOWSKI
UNITED STATES SENATOR ★ ALASKA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2020

Contact: [Karina Borger](tel:202.224.9301) 202.224.9301
or [Hannah Ray](tel:202.224.8069) 202.224.8069

Murkowski Speaks On COVID-19 Pandemic

'Americans need to have that confidence that we get the urgency...that we hear their cries'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the U.S. Senate works to come to an agreement on the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) spoke on the Senate floor about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the concerns of Alaskans across the state. Senator Murkowski stressed the urgency for Congress to put politics aside and deliver relief the American people need and deserve.

“Failure is not an option. This is not a time for the bumps to derail us. This is not a time that we have that is unlimited to extended debate, to extend a process when we have folks back home that we answer to that are angry, frustrated, and anxious,” said Senator Murkowski. “At the end of the failed vote today you heard anger from colleagues saying this type of political games or brinksmanship is not what the American people deserve and this is not what we should be doing as a United States Senate. Right now we don’t need the words that just further separate us as Americans.”



Speech Excerpts:

- “We’ve got about 19 Alaskans that are stuck in Peru, trying to get out of a country that has literally gone on lockdown. We were in long conversation yesterday with the folks at

the State Department trying to figure out how to help them, how to help their families back home in Alaska who are calling my office every day, sometimes multiple times a day saying 'What are you doing to help? What are you doing to help?' Not only those 19 Alaskans getting out of a place like Peru, the pregnant woman with several children, the minor exchange student, the families that are over there. They are looking to us to help them."

- "We went from a situation on Monday of last week where it was just one municipality ordered the closure of restaurants and bars to the following—the entire state has a full on closure."
- "We're a state that is isolated from everybody else from the continental United States. We fly to get home. It is a fact of our life. We had a letter signed by multiple emergency room doctors last week urging the Governor to ban non-essential air travel. Think about what that means? Pretty debilitating for a state like mine."
- "I'm so discouraged as I listen to the nature of the partisan words that are on this floor today. Because that is the last thing this body needs. That is the last thing this country needs. They need assurance from us. They need to have that confidence that we get the urgency and that we hear their cries."
- "When we are reminded that so much good can come together if we just lay down our partisan arms and say, 'What do we need to do for this country? What do you want for Arkansas? What do we need for Alaska? What do we need for one-another?'

Background:

- [On March 5, Senator Murkowski voted in favor of an emergency supplemental funding package, the *Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, which includes a total of \\$8.3 billion to help better prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The bill aims to strengthen the federal response to the coronavirus outbreak and allow for necessary precautions, prevention, and treatment at the local, state, national, and international levels.*](#)
- [On March 18, Senator Murkowski voted in favor of the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, a bill aimed at bolstering the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help mitigate the health and economic impacts of the outbreak by ensuring testing is free for Americans, securing paid sick leave as well as family and medical leave, enhancing unemployment insurance to help workers, and ensuring that students, seniors, and low-income households can continue to access nutrition assistance.](#)
- [On March 20, Senator Murkowski and Senate colleagues sent a letter](#) to the President regarding concerns over the US-Canada border closure.
- [On March 21, the *Alaska Congressional Delegation announced Small Business Administration economic injury disaster loans*](#) are now available for Alaska small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

###

March 23, 2020



Mat-Su Regional's COVID-19 Response



Dave Wallace

Like many of you, we at **Mat-Su Regional Medical Center** have been intensely focusing our energy and resources in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is a fluid dynamic that is pushing and pulling simultaneously, stretching our healthcare system and our economy in ways we have not previously experienced. In this sea of rapid change and uncertainty, it is reassuring to see how our medical staff and leaders from across the borough and the state have come together to prepare for the potential impact this pandemic will have on our community.

I want to briefly share with you steps our team at Mat-Su Regional is taking in preparation for a potential surge of COVID-19 patients. Early on, we established a taskforce to prepare and implement an action plan to ensure the safety of our patients, staff, visitors and community. I am exceptionally proud of the dedication and work of this team. Led by **Dr. Tom Quimby**, emergency medicine, our team has worked tirelessly, coordinating efforts with other community providers, the Mat-Su Borough and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. I appreciate their leadership in facing this public health crisis.

Here are some of the actions we've taken:

- Activated our Incident Command Center
- Instituted visitor restrictions, including limiting access points and requiring all guests to check in for a health screening upon arrival at the hospital
- Canceled large group gatherings and events at the hospital, such as Senior Circle
- Repurposed our ambulance bay, preparing it for the possible influx of patients who may present with COVID-19; establishing this area as a quarantine zone with negative air pressure to minimize exposure to others
- In collaboration with our Emergency Management partners, developing a dedicated testing site where patients can be referred for COVID-19 screening
- Added a COVID-19 information page to our website: <https://www.matsuregional.com/covid-19>
- Developed travel-related quarantine/self-isolation and social distancing policies for employees and medical staff
- Established a drive-through testing site at the Crusey Street Urgent Care
- Suspended elective surgical procedures (those that can wait two months without increased risks or escalation of care)

These are some of the steps we have taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. In collaboration with our gifted medical staff, we are daily assessing and adjusting protocols as we learn more about this illness. And while our processes may change, our commitment and resolve to serving our community will not. Our mission to bring healing and promote wellness to those who entrust us with their care remains firm.

I will keep you updated as we move forward together to face this challenge. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your service to Mat-Su Regional Medical Center and to our community.

Dave Wallace
CEO



The Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act

The programs and initiatives in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* that was just passed by Congress are intended to assist business owners with whatever needs they have right now. When implemented, there will be many new resources available for small businesses, as well as certain non-profits and other employers. This guide provides information about the major programs and initiatives that will soon be available from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to address these needs, as well as some additional tax provisions that are outside the scope of SBA.

To keep up to date on when these programs become available, please stay in contact with your local Small Business Administration (SBA) District Office, which you can locate [here](#).

Struggling to get started? The following questions might help point you in the right direction. Do you need:

- **Capital to cover the cost of retaining employees?** Then the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) might be right for you.
- **A quick infusion of a smaller amount of cash to cover you right now?** You might want to look into an [Emergency Economic Injury Grant](#).
- **To ease your fears about keeping up with payments on your current or potential SBA loan?** The [Small Business Debt Relief Program](#) could help.
- **Just some quality, free counseling to help you navigate this uncertain economic time?** The [resource partners](#) might be your best bet.

Already know what resources you're looking for? The table of contents can direct you to more information about the program or assistance product you need.

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Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans

The program would provide cash-flow assistance through 100 percent federally guaranteed loans to employers who maintain their payroll during this emergency. If employers maintain their payroll, the loans would be forgiven, which would help workers remain employed, as well as help affected small businesses and our economy snap-back quicker after the crisis. PPP has a host of attractive features, such as forgiveness of up to 8 weeks of payroll based on employee retention and salary levels, no SBA fees, and at least six months of deferral with maximum deferrals of up to a year. Small businesses and other eligible entities will be able to apply if they were harmed by COVID-19 between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020. This program would be retroactive to February 15, 2020, in order to help bring workers who may have already been laid off back onto payrolls. **Loans are available through June 30, 2020.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What types of businesses and entities are eligible for a PPP loan?

Answer:

- Businesses and entities must have been in operation on February 15, 2020.
- Small business concerns, as well as any business concern, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a 501(c)(19) veterans organization, or Tribal business concern described in section 31(b)(2)(C) that has fewer than 500 employees, or the applicable [size standard](#) in number of employees for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industry as provided by SBA, if higher.
- Individuals who operate a sole proprietorship or as an independent contractor and eligible self-employed individuals.
- Any business concern that employs not more than 500 employees per physical location of the business concern and that is assigned a NAICS code beginning with 72, for which the affiliation rules are waived.
- Affiliation rules are also waived for any business concern operating as a franchise that is assigned a franchise identifier code by the Administration, and company that receives funding through a Small Business Investment Company.

QUESTION: What are affiliation rules?

Answer:

Affiliation rules become important when SBA is deciding whether a business's affiliations preclude them from being considered "small." Generally, affiliation exists when one business controls or has the power to control another or when a third party (or parties) controls or has the power to control both businesses. Please see [this resource](#) for more on these rules and how they can impact your business's eligibility.

QUESTION: What types of non-profits are eligible?

Answer:

In general, 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) non-profits with 500 employees or fewer as most non-profit SBA size standards are based on revenue, not employee number. You can check [here](#).

QUESTION: How is the loan size determined?

Answer: Depending on your business's situation, the loan size will be calculated in different ways (see below). The maximum loan size is always **\$10 million**.

- **If you were in business February 15, 2019 – June 30, 2019:** Your max loan is equal to 250 percent of your average monthly payroll costs during that time period. If your business employs seasonal workers, you can opt to choose March 1, 2019 as your time period start date.
- **If you were not in business between February 15, 2019 – June 30, 2019:** Your max loan is equal to 250 percent of your average monthly payroll costs between January 1, 2020 and February 29, 2020.
- **If you took out an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020** and you want to refinance that loan into a PPP loan, you would add the outstanding loan amount to the payroll sum.

QUESTION: What costs are eligible for payroll?

- Answer:
- Compensation (salary, wage, commission, or similar compensation, payment of cash tip or equivalent)
 - Payment for vacation, parental, family, medical, or sick leave
 - Allowance for dismissal or separation
 - Payment required for the provisions of group health care benefits, including insurance premiums
 - Payment of any retirement benefit
 - Payment of State or local tax assessed on the compensation of employees

QUESTION: What costs are not eligible for payroll?

- Answer:
- Employee/owner compensation over \$100,000
 - Taxes imposed or withheld under chapters 21, 22, and 24 of the IRS code
 - Compensation of employees whose principal place of residence is outside of the U.S.
 - Qualified sick and family leave for which a credit is allowed under sections 7001 and 7003 of the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

QUESTION: What are allowable uses of loan proceeds?

- Answer:
- Payroll costs (as noted above)
 - Costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums
 - Employee salaries, commissions, or similar compensations (see exclusions above)
 - Payments of interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a mortgage obligation)
 - Rent (including rent under a lease agreement)
 - Utilities
 - Interest on any other debt obligations that were incurred before the covered period

QUESTION: What are the loan term, interest rate, and fees?

Answer: For any amounts not forgiven, the maximum term is 10 years, the maximum interest rate is 4 percent, zero loan fees, zero prepayment fee (SBA will establish application fees caps for lenders that charge).

QUESTION: How is the forgiveness amount calculated?

Answer: Forgiveness on a covered loan is equal to the sum of the following payroll costs incurred during the covered 8 week period compared to the previous year or time period, proportionate to maintaining employees and wages (excluding compensation over \$100,000):

- Payroll costs **plus** any payment of interest on any covered mortgage obligation (not including any prepayment or payment of principal on a covered mortgage obligation) **plus** any payment on any covered rent obligation **plus** and any covered utility payment.

QUESTION: How do I get forgiveness on my PPP loan?

Answer: You must apply through your lender for forgiveness on your loan. In this application, you must include:

- Documentation verifying the number of employees on payroll and pay rates, including IRS payroll tax filings and State income, payroll and unemployment insurance filings.
- Documentation verifying payments on covered mortgage obligations, lease obligations, and utilities.
- Certification from a representative of your business or organization that is authorized to certify that the documentation provided is true and that the amount that is being forgiven was used in accordance with the program's guidelines for use.

QUESTION: What happens after the forgiveness period?

Answer: Any loan amounts not forgiven are carried forward as an ongoing loan with max terms of 10 years, at a maximum interest rate of 4%. Principal and interest will continue to be deferred, for a total of 6 months to a year after disbursement of the loan. The clock does not start again.

QUESTION: Can I get more than one PPP loan?

Answer: No, an entity is limited to one PPP loan. Each loan will be registered under a Taxpayer Identification Number at SBA to prevent multiple loans to the same entity.

QUESTION: Where should I go to get a PPP loan from?

Answer: All current SBA 7(a) lenders (see more about [7\(a\) here](#)) are eligible lenders for PPP. The Department of Treasury will also be in charge of authorizing new lenders, including non-bank lenders, to help meet the needs of small business owners.

QUESTION: How does the PPP loan coordinate with SBA's existing loans?

Answer: Borrowers may apply for PPP loans and other SBA financial assistance, including Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs), 7(a) loans, 504 loans, and microloans, and also receive investment capital from [Small Business Investment Corporations](#) (SBICs). However, you cannot use your PPP loan for the same purpose as your other SBA loan(s). For example, if you use your PPP to cover payroll for the 8-week covered period, you cannot use a different SBA loan product for payroll for those same costs in that period, although you could use it for payroll not during that period or for different workers.

QUESTION: How does the PPP loan work with the temporary Emergency Economic Injury Grants and the Small Business Debt Relief program?

Answer: [Emergency Economic Injury Grant](#) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) recipients and those who receive loan payment relief through the [Small Business Debt Relief Program](#) may apply for and take out a PPP loan as long as there is no duplication in the uses of funds. Refer to those sections for more information.

Small Business Debt Relief Program

This program will provide immediate relief to small businesses with non-disaster SBA loans, in particular 7(a), 504, and microloans. Under it, SBA will cover all loan payments on these SBA loans, including principal, interest, and fees, for six months. This relief will also be available to new borrowers who take out loans within six months of the President signing the bill into law.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	
QUESTION:	Which SBA loans are eligible for debt relief under this program?
Answer:	7(a) loans not made under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), 504 loans, and microloans. Disaster loans are not eligible (see p. 7 for more information on these).
QUESTION:	How does debt relief under this program work with a PPP loan?
Answer:	Borrowers may separately apply for and take out a PPP loan, but debt relief under this program will not apply to a PPP loan.
QUESTION:	How do I know if I'm eligible for a 7(a), 504, or microloan?
Answer:	In general, businesses must meet size standards , be based in the U.S., be able to repay, and have a sound business purpose. To check whether your business is considered small, you will need your business's 6-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code and 3-year average annual revenue. Each program has different requirements, see https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans for more details.
QUESTION:	What is a 7(a) loan and how do I apply?
Answer:	7(a) loans are an affordable loan product of up to \$5 million for borrowers who lack credit elsewhere and need access to versatile financing, providing short-term or long-term working capital and to purchase an existing business, refinance current business debt, or purchase furniture, fixtures and supplies. In the program, banks share a portion of the risk of the loan with SBA. There are many different types of 7(a) loans, you can visit this site to find the one that's best for you. You apply for a 7(a) loan with a bank or a mission-based lender. SBA has a free referral service tool called Lender Match to help find a lender near you.
QUESTION:	What is a 504 loan and how do I apply?
Answer:	The 504 Loan Program provides loans of up to \$5.5 million to approved small businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing used to acquire fixed assets for expansion or modernization. It is a good option if you need to purchase real estate, buildings, and machinery. You apply through a Certified Development Company, which is a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic development. SBA has a free referral service tool called Lender Match to help find a lender near you.
QUESTION:	What is a microloan and how do I apply?
Answer:	The Microloan Program provides loans up to \$50,000 to help small businesses and certain not-for-profit childcare centers to start up and expand. The average microloan is about \$13,000. These loans are delivered through mission-based lenders who are also able to provide business counseling. SBA has a free referral service tool called Lender Match to help find a microlender near you.
QUESTION:	I am unfamiliar with SBA loans, can anyone help me apply?
Answer:	Yes, SBA resource partners are available to help guide you through the loan application process. You can find your nearest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) or Women's Business Center here .

Economic Injury Disaster Loans & Emergency Economic Injury Grants

These grants provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). To access the advance, you first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. **The advance does not need to be repaid under any circumstance**, and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Are businesses and private non-profits in my state eligible for an EIDL related to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes, those suffering substantial economic injury in all 50 states, DC, and the territories may apply for an EIDL.

QUESTION: What is an EIDL and what is it used for?

Answer: EIDLs are lower interest loans of up to \$2 million, with principal and interest deferment at the Administrator's discretion, that are available to pay for expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred, including payroll and other operating expenses.

QUESTION: Who is eligible for an EIDL?

Answer: Those eligible are the following with 500 or fewer employees:

- Sole proprietorships, with or without employees
- Independent contractors
- Cooperatives and employee owned businesses
- Tribal small businesses

Small business concerns and small agricultural cooperatives that meet the applicable size standard for SBA are also eligible, as well as most private non-profits of **any** size. See [below](#) for more info on size standards.

QUESTION: My private non-profit is not a 501(c)(3). Is it still eligible for an EIDL and a grant?

Answer: Yes, if you are a private non-profit with an effective ruling letter from the IRS, granting tax exemption under sections 501(c), (d), or (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or if you can provide satisfactory evidence from the State that the non-revenue producing organization or entity is a non-profit one organized or doing business under State law. However, a recipient that is principally engaged in teaching, instructing, counseling, or indoctrinating religion or religious beliefs, whether in a religious or secular setting, or primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities is not eligible to receive an EIDL. If you are uncertain whether you qualify, please consult with legal counsel to determine whether your organization meets program criteria.

QUESTION: Who is eligible for an Emergency Economic Injury Grant?

Answer: Those eligible for an EIDL and who have been in operation since **January 31, 2020**, when the public health crisis was announced.

QUESTION:	How long are Emergency Economic Injury Grants available?
Answer:	January 31, 2020 – December 31, 2020. The grants are backdated to January 31, 2020 to allow those who have already applied for EIDLs to be eligible to also receive a grant.
QUESTION:	If I get an EIDL and/or an Emergency Economic Injury Grant, can I get a PPP loan?
Answer:	Whether you've already received an EIDL unrelated to COVID-19 or you receive a COVID-19 related EIDL and/or Emergency Grant between January 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, you may also apply for a PPP loan. If you ultimately receive a PPP loan or refinance an EIDL into a PPP loan, any advance amount received under the Emergency Economic Injury Grant Program would be subtracted from the amount forgiven in the PPP. However, you cannot use your EIDL for the same purpose as your PPP loan. For example, if you use your EIDL to cover payroll for certain workers in April, you cannot use PPP for payroll for those same workers in April, although you could use it for payroll in March or for different workers in April.
QUESTION:	How do I know if my business is a small business?
Answer:	Please visit https://www.sba.gov/size-standards/ to find out if your business meets SBA's small business size standards. You will need the 6-digit North American Industry Classification Code for your business and your business's 3-year average annual revenue.
QUESTION:	How do I apply for an economic injury disaster loan?
Answer:	To apply for an EIDL online, please visit https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/ . Your SBA District Office is an important resource when applying for SBA assistance.
QUESTION:	I am unfamiliar with the EIDL process, can anyone help me apply?
Answer:	Yes, SBA resource partners are available to help guide you through the EIDL application process. You can find the nearest Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Women's Business Center, or SCORE mentorship chapter at https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/find/ .

Counseling & Training

If you, like many small business owners, need a business counselor to help guide you through this uncertain time, you can turn to your local Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Women’s Business Center (WBC), or SCORE mentorship chapter. These resource partners, and the associations that represent them, will receive additional funds to expand their reach and better support small business owners with counseling and up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. There will soon be a joint platform that consolidates information and resources related to COVID-19 in order to provide consistent, timely information to small businesses. To find a local resource partner, visit <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/find/>.

In addition, the Minority Business Development Agency’s Business Centers (MBDCs), which cater to minority business enterprises of all sizes, will also receive funding to hire staff and provide programming to help their clients respond to COVID-19. Not every state has a MBDC. To find out if there is one that services your area, visit [this site](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Do I have to pay for counseling and training through SBDCs, WBCs, and MBDCs?

Answer: Counseling is free and training is low-cost with these partners. The additional funds that Congress provided will help keep this possible. Mentorship through SCORE is always free.

QUESTION: What is a SBDC?

Answer: SBDCs are a national network of nearly 1,000 centers that are located at leading universities, colleges, state economic development agencies and private partners. They provide counseling and training to new and existing businesses. Each state has a lead center that coordinates services specifically for that state, which you can find by clicking the link above. To find out more about SBDCs, visit <https://americassbdc.org/about-us/>.

QUESTION: What is a WBC; is it only for women?

Answer: WBCs are a national network of more than 100 centers that offer one-on-one counseling, training, networking, workshops, technical assistance and mentoring to entrepreneurs on numerous business development topics. In addition to women, WBCs are mandated to serve the needs of underserved entrepreneurs, including low-income entrepreneurs. They often offer flexible hours to meet the needs of their diverse clientele. To find out more about WBCs, visit <https://www.awbc.org/>.

QUESTION: What is SCORE?

Answer: SCORE provides free, confidential business advice through our volunteer network of 10,000+ business experts. You can meet with a mentor online. Find out more [here](#).

QUESTION: Who do MBDCs serve?

Answer: MBDCs are a good option for minority-owned businesses (including those owned by Black, Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and American Indian business owners), especially those seeking to penetrate new markets — domestic & global — and grow in size and scale.

Contracting

If you are a government contractor, there are a number of ways that Congress has provided relief and protection for your business. Agencies will be able to modify terms and conditions of a contract and to reimburse contractors at a billing rate of up to 40 hours per week of any paid leave, including sick leave. The contractors eligible are those whose employees or subcontractors cannot perform work on site and cannot telework due to federal facilities closing because of COVID-19.

If you need additional assistance, please reach out to your local Small Business Development Center, Women's Business Center, SCORE chapter, or SBA District Office. You should also work with your agency's contracting officer, as well as the agency's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU).

Small Business Tax Provisions

Employee Retention Credit for Employers Subject to Closure or Experiencing Economic Hardship

This provision would provide a refundable payroll tax credit for 50 percent of wages paid by eligible employers to certain employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The credit is available to employers, including non-profits, whose operations have been fully or partially suspended as a result of a government order limiting commerce, travel or group meetings. The credit is also provided to employers who have experienced a greater than 50 percent reduction in quarterly receipts, measured on a year-over-year basis.

Wages of employees who are furloughed or face reduced hours as a result of their employer's closure or economic hardship are eligible for the credit. For employers with 100 or fewer full-time employees, all employee wages are eligible, regardless of whether an employee is furloughed. The credit is provided for wages and compensation, including health benefits, and is provided for the first \$10,000 in wages and compensation paid by the employer to an eligible employee. Wages do not include those taken into account for purposes of the payroll credits for required paid sick leave or required paid family leave, nor for wages taken into account for the employer credit for paid family and medical leave (IRC sec. 45S).

- **The credit is not available to employers receiving assistance through the [Paycheck Protection Program](#). The credit is provided through December 31, 2020.**

Delay of Payment of Employer Payroll Taxes

This provision would allow taxpayers to defer paying the employer portion of certain payroll taxes through the end of 2020, with all 2020 deferred amounts due in two equal installments, one at the end of 2021, the other at the end of 2022. Payroll taxes that can be deferred include the employer portion of FICA taxes, the employer and employee representative portion of Railroad Retirement taxes (that are attributable to the employer FICA rate), and half of SECA tax liability.

- **Deferral is not provided to employers receiving assistance through the [Paycheck Protection Program](#).**

Alaska COVID-19

Dr. Anne Zink
Alaska's Chief Medical Officer
April 2, 2020



Covid-19 Pandemic



Coronavirus Disease 2019, or **COVID-19**, was first identified in patients with respiratory illness in Wuhan, China in november 2019.



Covid-19 is a zoonotic, new viral respiratory illness against which we have no natural immunity.



Covid-19 is pandemic.



We continue to see cases throughout Alaska



We learn new things about this disease every day which necessitates constant response management and change.



Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath

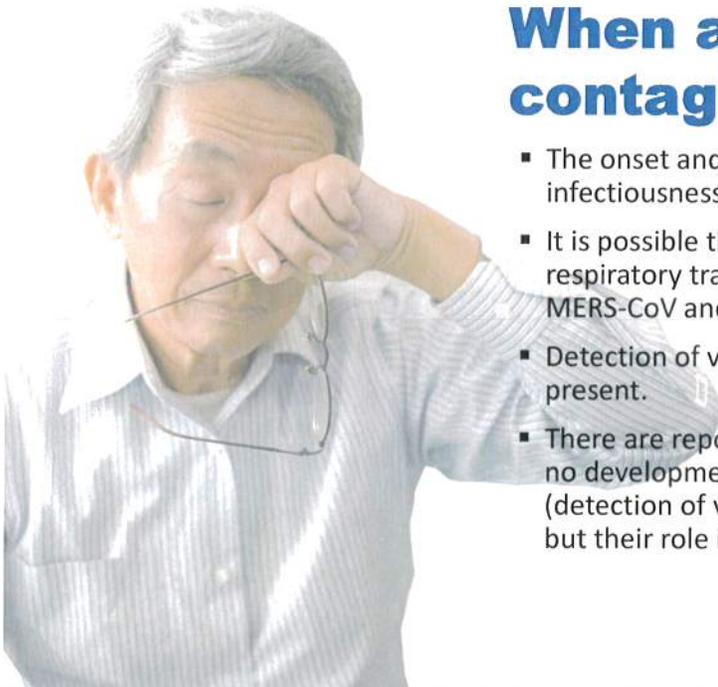
How is it spread?

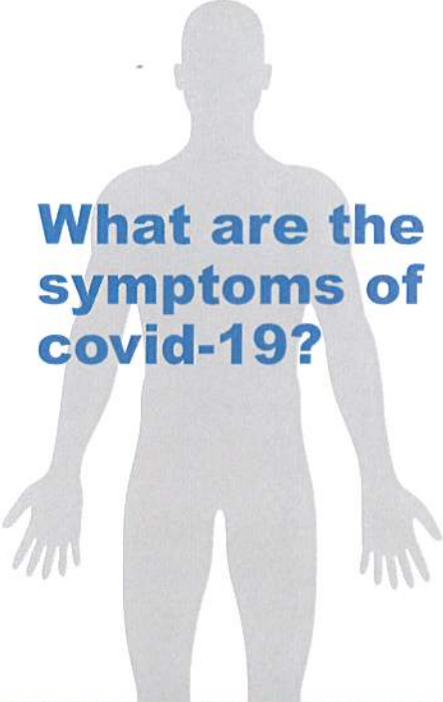
- Coughs, sneezes, surfaces, close contact.
- Maximum viral shedding early in the disease
- Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic people may be sharing the disease



When are people most contagious?

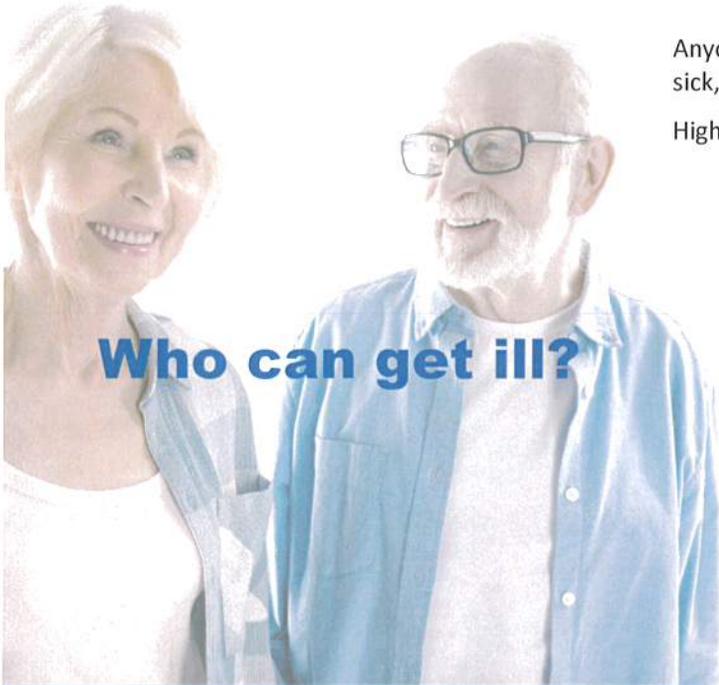
- The onset and duration of viral shedding and the period of infectiousness for COVID-19 are not yet known.
- It is possible that COVID-19 may be detectable in the upper or lower respiratory tract for weeks after illness onset, similar to infections with MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV.
- Detection of viral RNA does not necessarily mean that infectious virus is present.
- There are reports of asymptomatic infections (detection of virus with no development of symptoms) and pre-symptomatic infections (detection of virus prior to development of symptoms) with COVID-19, but their role in transmission is not yet known.





What are the symptoms of covid-19?

- Prolonged incubation period with no symptoms (14 plus days)
- Onset of fever can be sudden, typically between 100.4 degrees and 103.5 degrees
- Illness often unfolds slowly over several days
- Body aches and tiredness
- Decreased appetite
- Headache
- Deep, dry cough
- Shortness of breath
- Drop in blood oxygen levels
- acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Special note: this is a “dry” illness – there is typically no congestion
- More and more reports of a loss of sense of smell or taste



Who can get ill?

Anyone and everyone. All people, all ages. Young can still get very sick, just less likely to die.

Higher risk

- Over 60
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Underlying heart, lung conditions
- Diabetes
- Immunosuppression
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease
- Young can still get very sick, just less likely to die

Clinical Characteristics of the Study Patients, According to Disease Severity and the Presence or Absence of the Primary Composite End Point.*

Characteristic	All Patients (N=1099)	Disease Severity		Presence of Primary Composite End Point†	
		Nonsevere (N=926)	Severe (N=173)	Yes (N=67)	No (N=1032)
Age					
Median (IQR) — yr	47.0 (35.0–58.0)	45.0 (34.0–57.0)	52.0 (40.0–65.0)	63.0 (53.0–71.0)	46.0 (35.0–57.0)
Distribution — no./total no. (%)					
0–14 yr	9/1011 (0.9)	8/848 (0.9)	1/163 (0.6)	0	9/946 (1.0)
15–49 yr	557/1011 (55.1)	490/848 (57.8)	67/163 (41.1)	12/68 (18.5)	545/946 (57.6)
50–64 yr	292/1011 (28.9)	241/848 (28.4)	51/163 (31.3)	21/65 (32.3)	271/946 (28.6)
≥65 yr	153/1011 (15.1)	109/848 (12.9)	44/163 (27.0)	32/65 (49.2)	121/946 (12.8)
Female sex — no./total no. (%)	459/1096 (41.9)	386/923 (41.8)	73/173 (42.2)	22/67 (32.8)	437/1029 (42.5)
Smoking history — no./total no. (%)					
Never smoked	927/1085 (85.4)	793/913 (86.9)	134/172 (77.9)	44/66 (66.7)	883/1019 (86.7)
Former smoker	21/1085 (1.9)	12/913 (1.3)	9/172 (5.2)	5/66 (7.6)	16/1019 (1.6)
Current smoker	137/1085 (12.6)	108/913 (11.8)	29/172 (16.9)	17/66 (25.8)	120/1019 (11.8)
Exposure to source of transmission within past 14 days — no./total no.					
Living in Wuhan	483/1099 (43.9)	400/926 (43.2)	83/173 (48.0)	39/67 (58.2)	444/1032 (43.0)
Contact with wildlife	13/687 (1.9)	10/559 (1.8)	3/128 (2.3)	1/41 (2.4)	12/646 (1.9)
Recently visited Wuhan‡	193/616 (31.3)	166/526 (31.6)	27/90 (30.0)	10/28 (35.7)	183/588 (31.1)
Had contact with Wuhan residents‡	442/611 (72.3)	376/522 (72.0)	66/89 (74.2)	19/28 (67.9)	423/583 (72.6)
Median incubation period (IQR) — days§	4.0 (2.0–7.0)	4.0 (2.3–7.0)	4.0 (2.0–7.0)	4.0 (1.0–7.5)	4.0 (2.0–7.0)
Fever on admission					
Patients — no./total no. (%)	473/1081 (43.8)	391/910 (43.0)	82/171 (48.0)	24/66 (36.4)	449/1015 (44.2)
Median temperature (IQR) — °C	37.3 (36.7–38.0)	37.3 (36.7–38.0)	37.4 (36.7–38.1)	36.8 (36.3–37.8)	37.3 (36.7–38.0)
Distribution of temperature — no./total no. (%)					
<37.5°C	608/1081 (56.2)	519/910 (57.0)	89/171 (52.0)	42/66 (63.6)	566/1015 (55.8)
37.5–38.0°C	238/1081 (22.0)	201/910 (22.1)	37/171 (21.6)	10/66 (15.2)	228/1015 (22.5)
38.1–39.0°C	197/1081 (18.2)	160/910 (17.6)	37/171 (21.6)	11/66 (16.7)	186/1015 (18.3)
>39.0°C	38/1081 (3.5)	30/910 (3.3)	8/171 (4.7)	3/66 (4.5)	35/1015 (3.4)
Fever during hospitalization					
Patients — no./total no. (%)	975/1099 (88.7)	816/926 (88.1)	159/173 (91.9)	59/67 (88.1)	916/1032 (88.8)
Median highest temperature (IQR) — °C	38.3 (37.8–38.9)	38.3 (37.8–38.9)	38.5 (38.0–39.0)	38.5 (38.0–39.0)	38.3 (37.8–38.9)
<37.5°C	92/926 (9.9)	79/774 (10.2)	13/152 (8.6)	3/54 (5.6)	89/872 (10.2)
37.5–38.0°C	286/926 (30.9)	251/774 (32.4)	35/152 (23.0)	20/54 (37.0)	266/872 (30.5)
38.1–39.0°C	434/926 (46.9)	356/774 (46.0)	78/152 (51.3)	21/54 (38.9)	413/872 (47.4)
>39.0°C	114/926 (12.3)	88/774 (11.4)	26/152 (17.1)	10/54 (18.5)	104/872 (11.9)

The New England Journal of Medicine Downloaded from nejm.org on April 2, 2020. For personal use only. No other uses without permission. Copyright © 2020 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved.

Testing

“PCR” testing

- Need enough viral load
- Swabs needed for obtaining samples
- Medium
- Lab environment needed to do PCR test



Both the Anchorage & Fairbanks lab are open 7 days/week doing testing

- ASPHL performed >2,000 tests since 1 March 2020
- VTM now available from Alaska State Virology Lab

Additional tests – 30 types of tests have been approved by FDA

- Be aware of counterfeit COVID-19 tests that claim FDA approval. As of today, the FDA says they have not approved any serological COVID test for clinical diagnostic use.



What testing tells us

Testing is important to identify who has COVID-19 which determines:

- Treatment options
- Mitigation measures such as the need for strong social distancing mandates
- Who has recovered

Sensitivity of a test indicates how many sick people are correctly identified as having the disease

Specificity of a test indicates how many healthy people are correctly identified as not have the disease

Both of these are important to accurately identify who does and does not have COVID-19



Types of testing

Current test – Real-Time Reverse Transcriptase (RT)-PCR

- Can take 4-6 hours to run test after sample is received at lab
- Limitations: samples must be sent to a lab where test is run, patient must have a high enough viral load otherwise will be negative, requires large machines in a lab environment

Rapid-test by Abbott

- Point-of-care testing at health care facilities with small machine
- Results in 15 minutes
- Limitation: Low sensitivity
- Alaska has not received any of these yet

Serology testing

- Under development by CDC
- Will look for presence of antibodies which are made in response to infections
- Helps detect infections with few or no symptoms
- Indicator for how widespread COVID-19 is in a population

Currently there are no home tests for COVID-19



Abbott's ID NOW™ machine Photo courtesy of Abbott

Testing capacity in rural areas

- Drive-through COVID-19 testing is now available in Bethel through the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in the parking lot next to the old hospital.
- YHKC has 48 villages and 58 federally recognized tribes; 138 Community Health Aides (CHA), every village has at least one CHA that has been trained in specimen collection.
- Village Health Aides were trained via the distance learning program sponsored by ANTHC.
- Testing kits were sent out to select villages with large populations, and all of our SRCs have testing kits (that is 5 of our larger villages that have PA-C or NP.)



Alaska is in the top 10 for testing

Scott Gottlieb, MD @ScottGottliebMD Follow

New York leads nation at testing.

10 States with Highest Percentage of Testing

State	Percentage of Testing
New York	1.14%
Louisiana	0.98%
Washington	0.98%
Massachusetts	0.75%
Hawaii	0.74%
Vermont	0.72%
Alaska	0.69%
New Mexico	0.67%
Utah	0.66%
North Dakota	0.61%

Source: [APR 2020 State and Local COVID-19 Testing Rates](#) | AEI

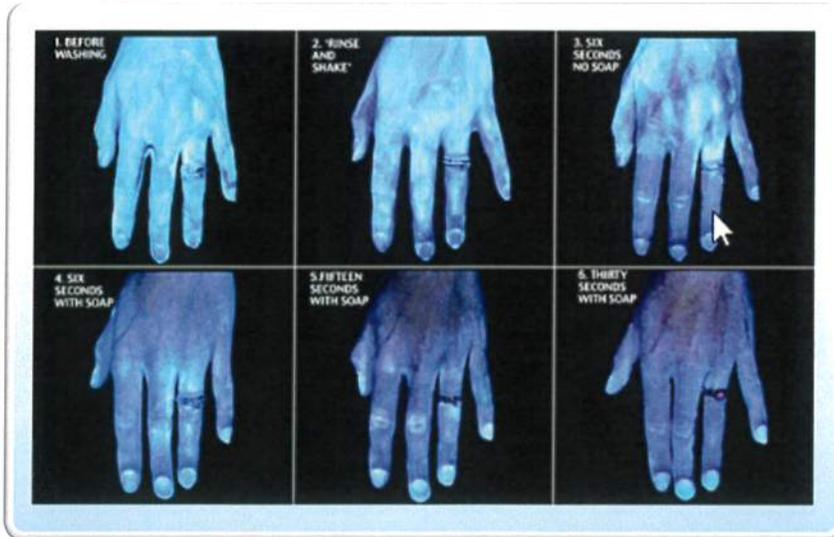
3:21 PM - 2 Apr 2020

93 Retweets 201 Likes

Scott Gottlieb, MD @ScottGottliebMD · 1h
Graphic represents tests conducted as a percent of total population.

8 6 44

Importance of hand hygiene



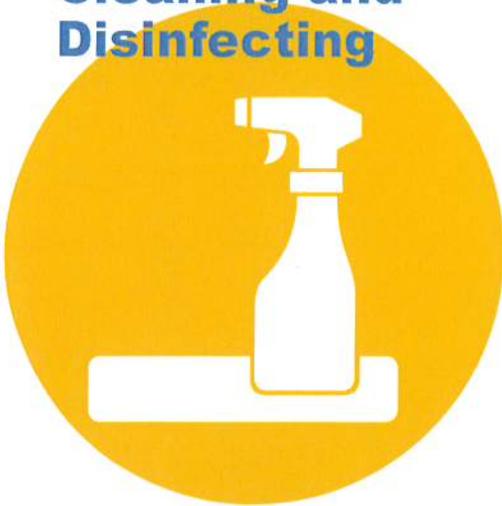
- This progression of handwashing time shows how important it is to wash for at least 20 seconds to adequately remove germs
- Intensity of glow on the hands reflects the amount of germs remaining
- Remaining germs can be transferred to face and surfaces which can transmit the virus

Hygiene for all

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water not available
 - Alaska-based businesses producing hand sanitizer to increase availability
- Households with no running water
 - Use handwashing basins with water and bleach
See Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation: www.ykhc.org/covid-19-disinfection-without-running-water/
- Don't touch face, including eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your elbow if a tissue is unavailable; immediately dispose of tissue after use and wash hands



Environmental Mitigation: Cleaning and Disinfecting



Important to limit the survival of the virus in our environments, including on surfaces and everyday items

Cleaning removes germs, dirt and other impurities; reduces number of germs but does not kill them

Disinfecting using chemicals on EPA-registered disinfectant list kills germs on surfaces after they have been cleaned

CDC has recommendations specific to

- Households: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html
- Businesses and community facilities: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html
- Health care facilities: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html

Especially important at businesses that remain open, such as grocery stores, where people still need to access essential services

Community Mitigation: Social Distancing



Primary goal is to slow the spread of virus within a community

Safeguards everyone, but especially important to protect:

- People at high-risk of severe illness
- Health care workforce
- Critical infrastructure workforce

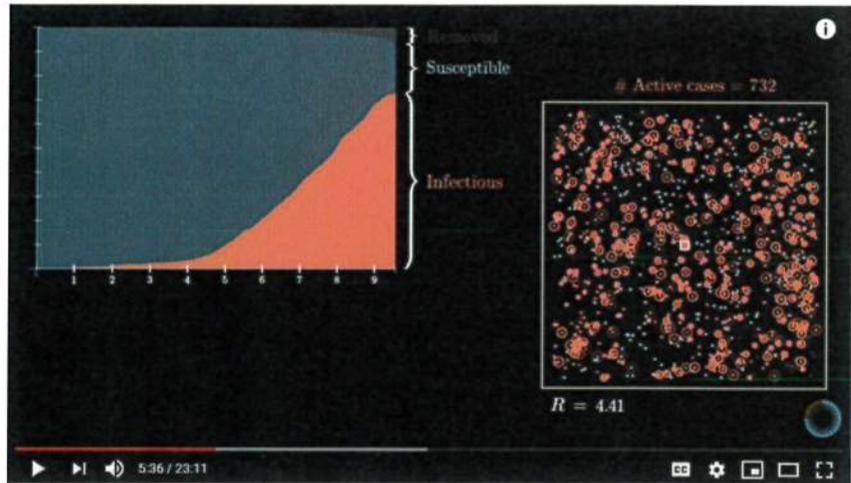
Strategies are customized to each community and region's local situation

- Limit movement of people (shelter-in-place, travel restrictions)
- Practice personal protective measures (handwashing, don't touch face)
- Monitor local information (stay apprised of conditions in the area you live)

Community Mitigation: Simulating an Epidemic

Modeling, such as the one in *Simulating an Epidemic*, can help inform community mitigation strategies

Shows how a frequently-visited central location like a grocery store plays a role in spreading the virus



www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxAaO2rsdIs

Building capacity – personal protective equipment

- Local Alaskans are building and donating face shields.
- Swabs are being fabricated locally
- Commercial grade face masks
- Full-body protective gear
- UAA is partnering with industry to build other needed equipment from ventilators to hand sanitizer.

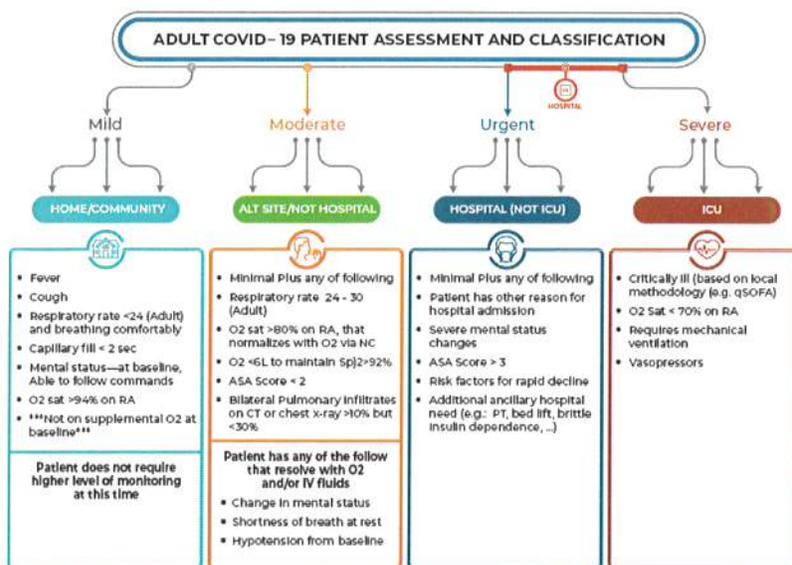


Building health care capacity

RESOURCES SHIPPED	QUANTITIES SHIPPED	BALANCE REMAINING
FACE SHIELDS	7026	1060
GLOVES (boxes)	3701	2191
GOWNS	4682	2135
N95 MASKS	26457	10266
SURGICAL MASKS	72900	65100
VENTILATORS	0	70

To accommodate additional supplies, DHSS has doubled warehouse space from one 10,000 square foot warehouse to two warehouses, each with 10,000 square feet. Intent is to ensure sufficient space to efficiently receive and ship inventory of critical supplies.

Types of patients



For Pediatrics refer to Jump Start Triage

Alternate Care Sites

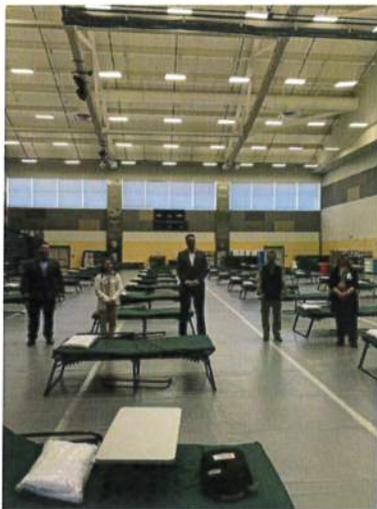
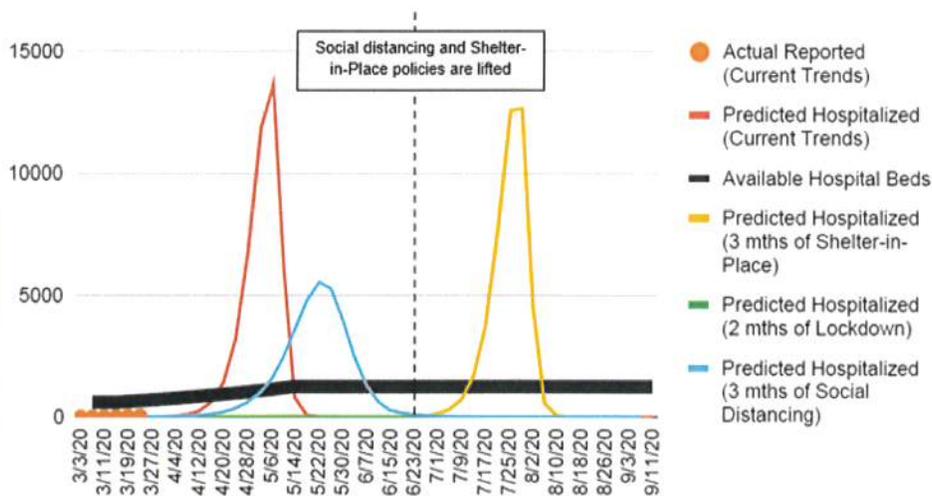


Figure 3. Model of hospitalizations over time in Alaska based on the COVID ACT NOW modeling framework through March 23, 2020



COVID ACT NOW Modeling Framework

Conclusion from ACTNOW Model

- If No Action was taken, the model predicts
 - Hospital bed capacity would be reached within weeks
 - Up to 11,000 deaths from COVID-19
 - At the peak, 3700 persons would need hospitalizations in one day
- Because of Actions taken, we are not on that track
- The Shelter-in-Place scenario predicts we do not exceed hospital capacity
- Lifting social distancing measures will likely cause a spike in cases
 - approximately 1 month after
 - number needing hospitalization may be as high as No Action scenario

University of Washington - IMHE

COVID-19 projections assuming full social distancing through May 2020

Last daily update on April 1, 2020

[FAQ](#) | [Update](#) | [Notes](#) | [Article](#)

Alaska

Government-mandated social distancing



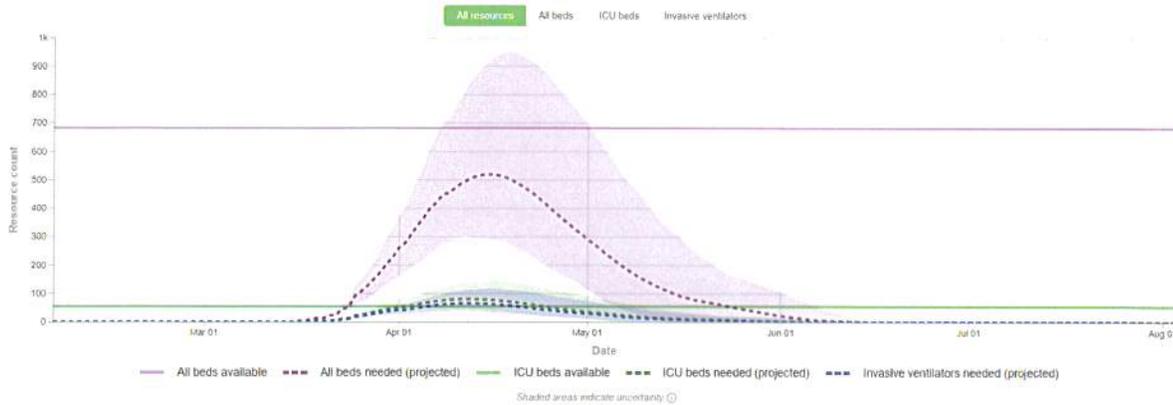
Hospital resource use



The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is an independent global health research center at the University of Washington.

<https://covid19.healthdata.org/projectionsojections>

University of Washington - IMHE



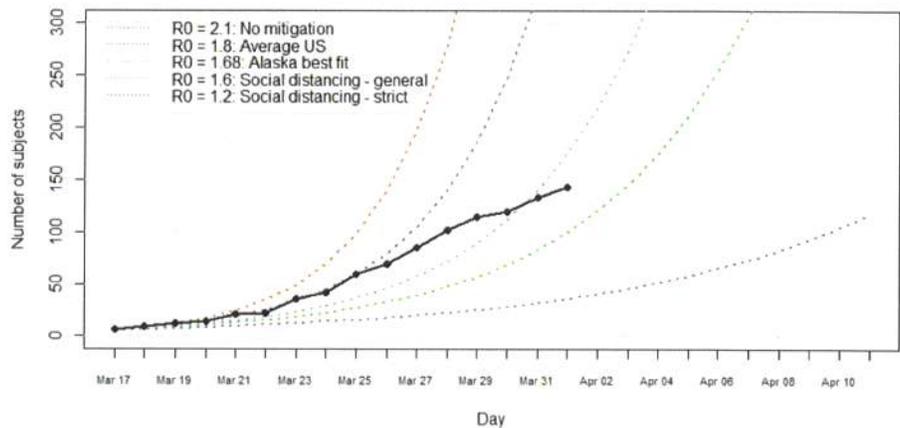
<https://covid19.healthdata.org/projectionsojections>

DHSS modeling: 10-day trajectory of confirmed cases

- Indicated in black, that Alaska observed cumulative case counts:
 - Diverted below the "worst-case-scenario" on March 20th
 - Diverted below the US average on March 26th
 - Since March 25th as been tracking towards the general social distancing projection

Caution used of confirmed cases has a lag from the implemented mitigation strategies

SIR Model 10-day trajectories, Alaska 3/17/20 - 4/1/20



Funding for Small Hospitals

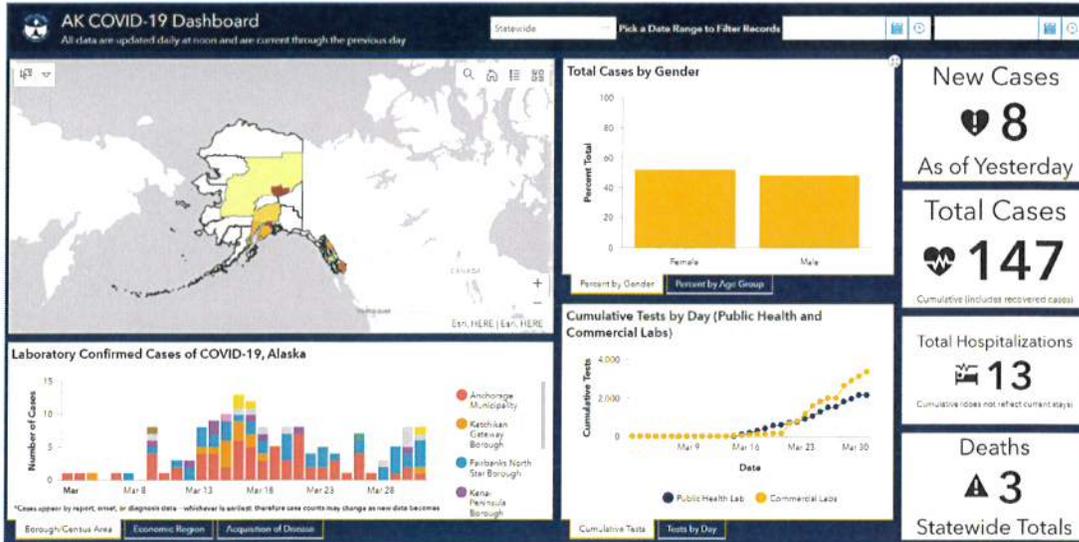
	CMS #	Hospital Name	Estimated Funding Amount
1	21307	Cordova Community Medical Center	90,000
2	20008	Bartlett Regional Hospital	90,000
3	21312	Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital	90,000
4	21309	Kanakanak Hospital (Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation)	90,000
5	21304	Petersburg Medical Center	90,000
6	21313	South Peninsula Hospital	90,000
7	21306	Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center	90,000
8	21302	Providence Seward Medical and Care Center	90,000
9	21301	Providence Valdez Medical Center	90,000
10	21305	SEARHC Wrangell Medical Center	90,000
11	20018	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	90,000
12	21314	SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe	90,000
13	21308	Norton Sound Regional Hospital	90,000
14	21311	PeaceHealth Ketchikan	90,000
15	21310	Maniilaq Health Center	90,000
			\$1,350,000

- Federal CARES Act Funding for small rural hospitals from Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA)
- Awarded to states by late April and provided to hospitals through Small Hospital Improvement Program.
- Intent: broad and covers COVID related activities; if the hospital can link purchases and activities to COVID related needs then its allowable.
- Fifteen eligible Alaska rural hospitals with 49 bed or less qualify for approximately \$90,000 each; total funding \$1,350,000 for Alaska.

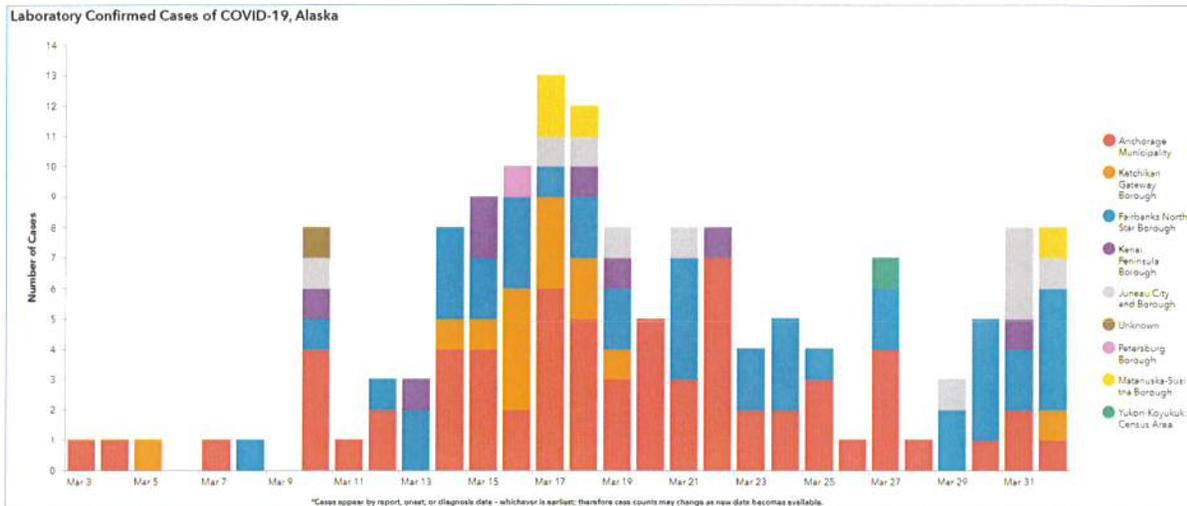
Senior and Disabilities Services

- Hosting webinars with provider organizations to give COVID -19 and service updates.
- Using the e-alert list-serve to update providers state mandates and other program news.
- Re-purposing the Electronic Visit Verification email for provider suggestions/comments about changes to services or to request flexibilities in waivers or state plan services.
- Implementing CMS-approved flexibilities for Medicaid waivers through Appendix K.
- Requesting flexibilities for State Plan services from CMS through 1135 Amendment.
- Requesting all certified home and community-based service providers report ill individuals to Epidemiology and through Central Intake to offer providers technical assistance.
- Working with provider groups on best practices across our service array.
- Working to provide additional grant funding for senior meals and allowing flexible use of grant funds to support staff and recipients.

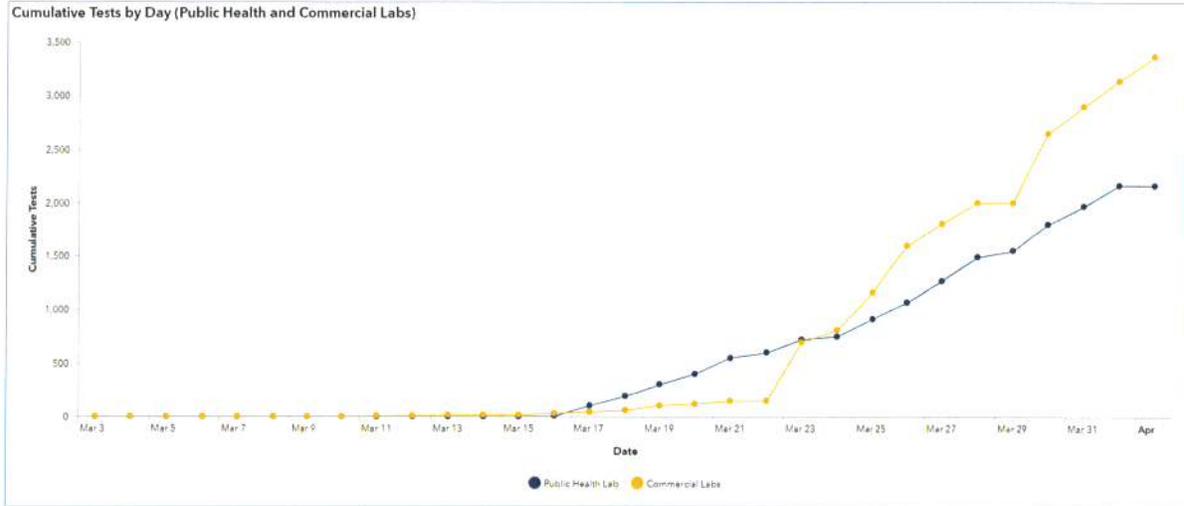




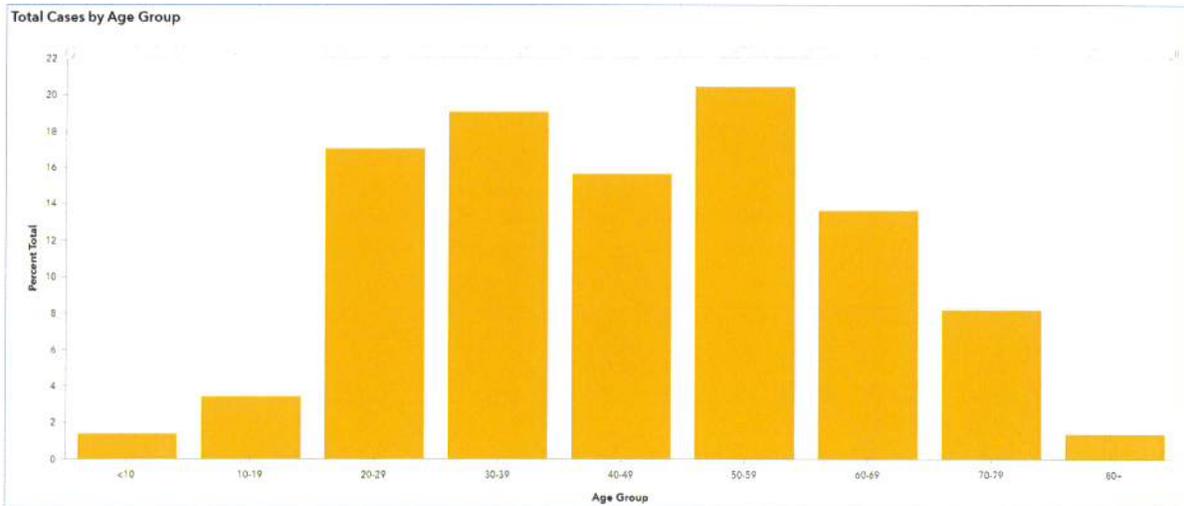
Dashboard



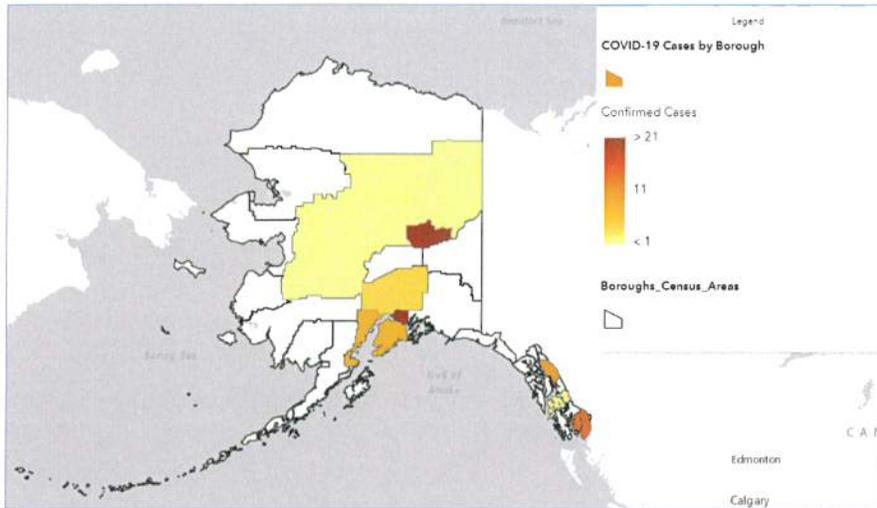
By Date and Location



Cumulative Testing



Cases by Age Group



State COVID Cases

What you can do - Stores

- Limit your shopping trips
- Go during off-hours to minimize interaction with crowds
- Use pickup or delivery services if possible
- Wipe down the handles on the shopping card or basket
- Wash your hands after shopping (and all the time!)
- Reach out to elders or others to see if you can pick groceries up for them
- Support local restaurants by ordering take-out if possible

WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



PLEASE ONLY GO TO THE GROCERY STORE WHEN YOU TRULY NEED TO.

PLAN YOUR TRIP WITH A LIST TO LIMIT YOUR TIME IN THE STORE.



Anchorage Health Department

#HUNKERDOWNANCHORTOWN
WWW.MUNI.ORG/COVID-19

Graphic courtesy of Anchorage Health Department

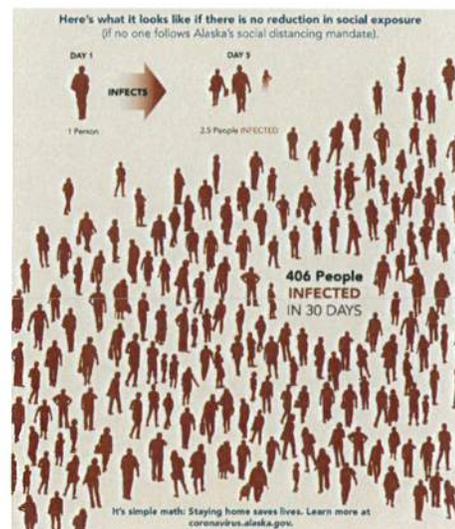
What you can do - Masks

- Wear a thickly woven homemade mask when you must go in public to minimize the asymptomatic spread
- Save the N95 masks for medical professionals who need them
- Find easy instructions on the internet for constructing masks



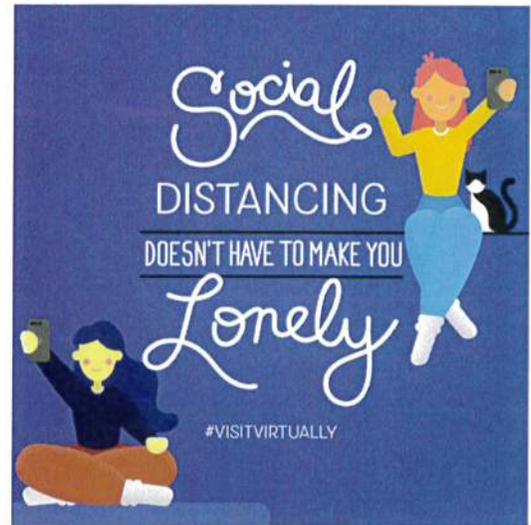
What you can do – Social Distancing

- Stay at least six feet away from others
- Minimize interactions when entering stores
- Avoid all gatherings
- *Physical* distance is what's important
- Keep in touch with loved ones by phone, text, email and Skype or Zoom calls
- We're doing this for *all Alaskans* to flatten the curve



What you can do – Take care of each other

- Take care of each other: We can do this, Alaska
- Stick to the basics
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds
- Clean all high touch surfaces regularly
- Minimize touching anything else
- Never touch your eyes, mouth or nose
- Take care of your physical and mental health
- Take care of those who are more vulnerable in your community
- Reach out if you need help
- We're stronger together, we'll get through this





CITY OF HOUSTON
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION DECLARATION
OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, under the authority granted by Alaska Statute 26.23.050(c), issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has certified that it is highly probable that an outbreak of COVID-19 will occur in Alaska in the near future within the definition "disaster" codified at Alaska Statute 26.23.900(2)(E); and WHEREAS, the imminent threat of an outbreak of COVID-19 will significantly affect the life and health of the residents of the City of Houston; and

WHEREAS, the imminent threat posed to Houston and its residents exceeds the capabilities and resources of the city to respond to and mitigate the threat to public safety.

THEREFORE on this 3rd day of April, 2020, under the authority granted by Alaska Statutes 26.23.140 and Houston Municipal Code 2.40.010, I hereby declare that a condition of public health disaster emergency exists in the City of Houston, and this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a public health disaster emergency declaration in order to provide assistance and take necessary action.

FURTHER, this declaration allows the City to request assistance from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the State of Alaska, and the Federal government, including funds, services, or materials deemed necessary to meet needs stemming from COVID-19.

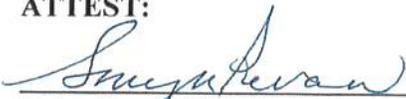
FURTHER, this declaration authorizes the Mayor to implement measures necessary to prevent the spread of disease, designate an Emergency Management Coordinator, and to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Signed this 3rd day of April, 2020.


Virgie Thompson, Mayor

[SEAL]

ATTEST:


Sonya Pevar, CMC, City Clerk



PUBLIC NOTICE

EFFECTIVE: Friday, April 3, 2020

RE: City of Houston, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update 3

FROM: Mayor, Virgie Thompson 

In order to try and curb or limit the opportunity for community transmission in the City of Houston, **effective April 3rd, 2020 the following takes effect until further notice.**

City Hall – closed to public access. Employees will be available at **907-892-6869** to provide government services.

Public Works - will continue to provide road services.

Animal Control - closed to public access, please call **907-892-9130**.

Public Meetings - public meetings are being evaluated and at this time are not cancelled unless posted as cancelled.

Public Events - public events will be evaluated and will be noticed accordingly.

City emergency services and animal control services will continue without interruption.

It is our goal to continue services to the best of our ability without jeopardizing the health and welfare of city staff and community.

The closures of City buildings will continually be evaluated. Any changes will be communicated to the public. Although buildings will be closed to the public, work areas will remain open to employees to continue to provide services.

For More information:

- City of Houston website: <https://www.houstonak.com/>
- City of Houston Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/houstonak/>
- Clerk@houston-ak.gov

Mary Miller

From: Mat-Su Health Foundation <robin@healthymatsu.ccsend.com> on behalf of Mat-Su Health Foundation <rminard@healthymatsu.org>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:38 PM
To: John Moosey
Subject: MSHF News Bulletin - April 3, 2020

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]



MSHF News Bulletin, April 3, 2020

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE NEWS

New Federal Loan Programs

The Foraker Group has put together a comprehensive overview of the new federal loan programs created in response to the coronavirus pandemic. **We urge Mat-Su nonprofits needing funding to make a priority of exploring the new opportunities.** Funding is available on a **first come, first served** basis, so the time to look at options is now. [Read Foraker's full post here.](#)

MSHF Has Awarded More Than \$375,000 for Coronavirus Prevention and Response

The Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) has made nine grant awards totaling \$378,124 to nonprofit service providers for coronavirus prevention and response. The foundation's Coronavirus Prevention and Response (CPR) grant program was developed over the last two weeks and will continue offering grants throughout the pandemic. [For more details on the grant awards, click here.](#)

How to Apply for a CPR Grant

Coronavirus Prevention and Response (CPR) grant requests may be as high as \$50,000 per nonprofit organization. Approvals are prioritized as follows: 1. Operational funding, supplies, equipment and other program costs for organizations that are trying to minimize exposure for high risk groups and meet the basic needs of the people they serve; and, 2. Operational funding, supplies, equipment and other program costs for organizations that are working to secure basic needs for all residents (i.e. food banks, homeless prevention program utility and rent payments). [Interested nonprofits serving Mat-Su residents may apply online through the Target Wellness grant program linked here.](#)

Other Coronavirus Actions taken by MSHF

In addition to offering the CPR grant program, the foundation has taken other steps to support nonprofits during this tumultuous time, including easing reporting requirements for new and existing grant recipients, and allowing for re-purposing of previously awarded grants if the money is needed for coronavirus response. Foundation staff are also working alongside Mat-Su food and homelessness/housing coalitions to assist in managing a coordinated response to meeting the basic needs of Mat-Su residents during the pandemic.

Alaska Community Foundation Grants

The Alaska Community Foundation also has coronavirus grants available to nonprofits in amounts ranging from \$5,000 - \$20,000. [Details and application here.](#)

Please help stop the spread of Coronavirus



Be vigilant about social distancing. This means staying six feet away from everyone except your immediate family

Thank you for doing your part!

Please help stop the spread of Coronavirus



Protect your mental health by engaging with friends and family on the phone or internet. Social distancing doesn't have to mean social isolation.

Thank you for doing your part!

Please help stop the spread of Coronavirus



Don't go out in public unless it's absolutely necessary.

Thank you for doing your part!

Please help stop the spread of Coronavirus



Wash your hands and clean frequently touched surfaces often.

Thank you for doing your part!

STAY CONNECTED



Mat-Su Health Foundation | 777 North Crusey St., Ste. A201, Wasilla, AK 99654

[Unsubscribe john.moosey@matsugov.us](mailto:john.moosey@matsugov.us)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by rminard@healthymatsu.org in collaboration with



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Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers

As provided under the legislation, the U.S. Department of Labor will be issuing implementing regulations. Additionally, as warranted, the Department will continue to provide compliance assistance to employers and employees on their responsibilities and rights under the FFCRA.

DEFINITIONS

“Paid sick leave” – means paid leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act.

“Expanded family and medical leave” – means paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- 1. What is the effective date of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which includes the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?**

The FFCRA’s paid leave provisions are effective on April 1, 2020, and apply to leave taken between April 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

- 2. As an employer, how do I know if my business is under the 500-employee threshold and therefore must provide paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?**

You have fewer than 500 employees if, at the time your employee’s leave is to be taken, you employ fewer than 500 full-time and part-time employees within the United States, which includes any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any Territory or possession of the United States. In making this determination, you should include employees on leave; temporary employees who are jointly employed by you and another employer (regardless of whether the jointly-employed employees are maintained on only your or another employer’s payroll); and day laborers supplied by a temporary agency (regardless of whether you are the temporary agency or the client firm if there is a continuing employment relationship). Workers who are independent contractors under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), rather than employees, are not considered employees for purposes of the 500-employee threshold.

Typically, a corporation (including its separate establishments or divisions) is considered to be a single employer and its employees must each be counted towards the 500-employee threshold. Where a corporation has an ownership interest in another corporation, the two corporations are separate employers unless they are joint employers under the FLSA with respect to certain employees. If two entities are found to be joint employers, all of their common employees must be counted in determining whether paid sick leave must be provided under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and expanded family and medical leave must be provided under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

In general, two or more entities are separate employers unless they meet the integrated employer test under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA). If two entities are an integrated employer under the FMLA, then employees of all entities making up the integrated employer will be counted in determining employer coverage for purposes of paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

3. If I am a private sector employer and have 500 or more employees, do the Acts apply to me?

No. Private sector employers are only required to comply with the Acts if they have fewer than 500 employees.[1]

4. If providing child care-related paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave at my business with fewer than 50 employees would jeopardize the viability of my business as a going concern, how do I take advantage of the small business exemption?

To elect this small business exemption, you should document why your business with fewer than 50 employees meets the criteria set forth by the Department, which will be addressed in more detail in forthcoming regulations.

You should not send any materials to the Department of Labor when seeking a small business exemption for paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave.

5. How do I count hours worked by a part-time employee for purposes of paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

A part-time employee is entitled to leave for his or her average number of work hours in a two-week period. Therefore, you calculate hours of leave based on the number of hours the employee is normally scheduled to work. If the normal hours scheduled are unknown, or if the part-time employee's schedule varies, you may use a six-month average to calculate the average daily hours. Such a part-time employee may take paid sick leave for this number of hours per day for up to a two-week period, and may take expanded family and medical leave for the same number of hours per day up to ten weeks after that.

If this calculation cannot be made because the employee has not been employed for at least six months, use the number of hours that you and your employee agreed that the employee would work upon hiring. And if there is no such agreement, you may calculate the appropriate number

of hours of leave based on the average hours per day the employee was scheduled to work over the entire term of his or her employment.

6. When calculating pay due to employees, must overtime hours be included?

Yes. The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act requires you to pay an employee for hours the employee would have been normally scheduled to work even if that is more than 40 hours in a week.

However, the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act requires that paid sick leave be paid only up to 80 hours over a two-week period. For example, an employee who is scheduled to work 50 hours a week may take 50 hours of paid sick leave in the first week and 30 hours of paid sick leave in the second week. In any event, the total number of hours paid under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act is capped at 80.

If the employee's schedule varies from week to week, please see the answer to [Question 5](#), because the calculation of hours for a full-time employee with a varying schedule is the same as that for a part-time employee.

Please keep in mind the daily and aggregate caps placed on any pay for paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave as described in the answer to Question 7.

Please note that pay does not need to include a premium for overtime hours under either the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act or the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

7. As an employee, how much will I be paid while taking paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA?

It depends on your normal schedule as well as why you are taking leave.

If you are taking paid sick leave because you are unable to work or telework due to a need for leave because you (1) are subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19; (2) have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19; or (3) are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and are seeking medical diagnosis, you will receive for each applicable hour the greater of:

- your regular rate of pay,
- the federal minimum wage in effect under the FLSA, or
- the applicable State or local minimum wage.

In these circumstances, you are entitled to a maximum of \$511 per day, or \$5,110 total over the entire paid sick leave period.

If you are taking paid sick leave because you are: (1) caring for an individual who is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or an individual who has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19; (2) caring for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons; or (3) experiencing any other substantially-similar condition that may arise, as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, you are entitled to compensation at 2/3 of the greater of the amounts above.

Under these circumstances, you are subject to a maximum of \$200 per day, or \$2,000 over the entire two week period.

If you are taking expanded family and medical leave, you may take paid sick leave for the first ten days of that leave period, or you may substitute any accrued vacation leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave you have under your employer's policy. For the following ten weeks, you will be paid for your leave at an amount no less than 2/3 of your regular rate of pay for the hours you would be normally scheduled to work. The regular rate of pay used to calculate this amount must be at or above the federal minimum wage, or the applicable state or local minimum wage. However, you will not receive more than \$200 per day or \$12,000 for the twelve weeks that include both paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave when you are on leave to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons.

To calculate the number of hours for which you are entitled to paid leave, please see the answers to Questions 5-6 that are provided in this guidance.

8. What is my regular rate of pay for purposes of the FFCRA?

For purposes of the FFCRA, the regular rate of pay used to calculate your paid leave is the average of your regular rate over a period of up to six months prior to the date on which you take leave.

[2] If you have not worked for your current employer for six months, the regular rate used to calculate your paid leave is the average of your regular rate of pay for each week you have worked for your current employer.

If you are paid with commissions, tips, or piece rates, these amounts will be incorporated into the above calculation to the same extent they are included in the calculation of the regular rate under the FLSA.

You can also compute this amount for each employee by adding all compensation that is part of the regular rate over the above period and divide that sum by all hours actually worked in the same period.

9. May I take 80 hours of paid sick leave for my self-quarantine and then another amount of paid sick leave for another reason provided under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act?

No. You may take up to two weeks—or ten days—(80 hours for a full-time employee, or for a part-time employee, the number of hours equal to the average number of hours that the employee works over a typical two-week period) of paid sick leave for any combination of qualifying reasons. However, the total number of hours for which you receive paid sick leave is capped at 80 hours under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act.

10. If I am home with my child because his or her school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, do I get paid sick leave, expanded family and medical leave, or both—how do they interact?

You may be eligible for both types of leave, but only for a total of twelve weeks of paid leave. You may take both paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons. The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act provides for an initial two weeks of paid leave. This period thus covers the first ten workdays of expanded family and medical leave, which are otherwise unpaid under the Emergency and Family Medical Leave Expansion Act unless you elect to use existing vacation, personal, or medical or sick leave under your employer's policy. After the first ten workdays have elapsed, you will receive 2/3 of your regular rate of pay for the hours you would have been scheduled to work in the subsequent ten weeks under the Emergency and Family Medical Leave Expansion Act.

Please note that you can only receive the additional ten weeks of expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act for leave to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons.

11. Can my employer deny me paid sick leave if my employer gave me paid leave for a reason identified in the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act prior to the Act going into effect?

No. The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act imposes a new leave requirement on employers that is effective beginning on April 1, 2020.

12. Is all leave under the FMLA now paid leave?

No. The only type of family and medical leave that is paid leave is expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act when such leave exceeds ten days. This includes only leave taken because the employee must care for a child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons.

13. Are the paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave requirements retroactive?

No.

14. How do I know whether I have “been employed for at least 30 calendar days by the employer” for purposes of expanded family and medical leave?

You are considered to have been employed by your employer for at least 30 calendar days if your employer had you on its payroll for the 30 calendar days immediately prior to the day your leave would begin. For example, if you want to take leave on April 1, 2020, you would need to have been on your employer's payroll as of March 2, 2020.

If you have been working for a company as a temporary employee, and the company subsequently hires you on a full-time basis, you may count any days you previously worked as a temporary employee toward this 30-day eligibility period.

15. What records do I need to keep when my employee takes paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

Private sector employers that provide paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave required by the FFCRA are eligible for reimbursement of the costs of that leave through refundable tax credits. If you intend to claim a tax credit under the FFCRA for your payment of the sick leave or expanded family and medical leave wages, you should retain appropriate documentation in your records. You should consult Internal Revenue Service (IRS) applicable forms, instructions, and information for the procedures that must be followed to claim a tax credit, including any needed substantiation to be retained to support the credit. You are not required to provide leave if materials sufficient to support the applicable tax credit have not been provided.

If one of your employees takes expanded family and medical leave to care for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19, you may also require your employee to provide you with any additional documentation in support of such leave, to the extent permitted under the certification rules for conventional FMLA leave requests. For example, this could include a notice that has been posted on a government, school, or day care website, or published in a newspaper, or an email from an employee or official of the school, place of care, or child care provider.

16. What documents do I need to give my employer to get paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

You must provide to your employer documentation in support of your paid sick leave as specified in applicable IRS forms, instructions, and information.

Your employer may also require you to provide additional in support of your expanded family and medical leave taken to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19-related reasons. For example, this may include a notice of closure or unavailability from your child's school, place of care, or child care provider, including a notice that may have been posted on a government, school, or day care website, published in a newspaper, or emailed to you from an employee or official of the school, place of care, or child care provider. Your employer must retain this notice or documentation in support of expanded family and medical leave, including while you may be taking unpaid leave that runs concurrently

with paid sick leave if taken for the same reason.

Please also note that all existing certification requirements under the FMLA remain in effect if you are taking leave for one of the existing qualifying reasons under the FMLA. For example, if you are taking leave beyond the two weeks of emergency paid sick leave because your medical condition for COVID-19-related reasons rises to the level of a serious health condition, you must continue to provide medical certifications under the FMLA if required by your employer.

17. When am I able to telework under the FFCRA?

You may telework when your employer permits or allows you to perform work while you are at home or at a location other than your normal workplace. Telework is work for which normal wages must be paid and is not compensated under the paid leave provisions of the FFCRA.

18. What does it mean to be unable to work, including telework for COVID-19 related reasons?

You are unable to work if your employer has work for you and one of the COVID-19 qualifying reasons set forth in the FFCRA prevents you from being able to perform that work, either under normal circumstances at your normal worksite or by means of telework.

If you and your employer agree that you will work your normal number of hours, but outside of your normally scheduled hours (for instance early in the morning or late at night), then you are able to work and leave is not necessary unless a COVID-19 qualifying reason prevents you from working that schedule.

19. If I am or become unable to telework, am I entitled to paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

If your employer permits teleworking—for example, allows you to perform certain tasks or work a certain number of hours from home or at a location other than your normal workplace—and you are unable to perform those tasks or work the required hours because of one of the qualifying reasons for paid sick leave, then you are entitled to take paid sick leave.

Similarly, if you are unable to perform those teleworking tasks or work the required teleworking hours because you need to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, because of COVID-19 related reasons, then you are entitled to take expanded family and medical leave. Of course, to the extent you are able to telework while caring for your child, paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave is not available.

20. May I take my paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave intermittently while teleworking?

Yes, if your employer allows it and if you are unable to telework your normal schedule of hours due to one of the qualifying reasons in the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. In that situation, you and your employer may agree that you may take paid sick leave intermittently while teleworking. Similarly, if you are prevented from teleworking your normal schedule of hours because you need

to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, because of COVID-19 related reasons, you and your employer may agree that you can take expanded family medical leave intermittently while teleworking.

You may take intermittent leave in any increment, provided that you and your employer agree. For example, if you agree on a 90-minute increment, you could telework from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, take leave from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM, and then return to teleworking.

The Department encourages employers and employees to collaborate to achieve flexibility and meet mutual needs, and the Department is supportive of such voluntary arrangements that combine telework and intermittent leave.

21. May I take my paid sick leave intermittently while working at my usual worksite (as opposed to teleworking)?

It depends on why you are taking paid sick leave and whether your employer agrees. Unless you are teleworking, paid sick leave for qualifying reasons related to COVID-19 must be taken in full-day increments. It cannot be taken intermittently if the leave is being taken because:

- You are subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
- You have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- You are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;
- You are caring for an individual who either is subject to a quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19; or
- You are experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Unless you are teleworking, once you begin taking paid sick leave for one or more of these qualifying reasons, you must continue to take paid sick leave each day until you either (1) use the full amount of paid sick leave or (2) no longer have a qualifying reason for taking paid sick leave. This limit is imposed because if you are sick or possibly sick with COVID-19, or caring for an individual who is sick or possibly sick with COVID-19, the intent of FFCRA is to provide such paid sick leave as necessary to keep you from spreading the virus to others.

If you no longer have a qualifying reason for taking paid sick leave before you exhaust your paid sick leave, you may take any remaining paid sick leave at a later time, until December 31, 2020, if another qualifying reason occurs.

In contrast, if you and your employer agree, you may take paid sick leave intermittently if you are taking paid sick leave to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, because of COVID-19 related reasons. For example, if your child is at home because his or her school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, because of COVID-19 related reasons, you may take paid sick leave on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to care for your child, but work at your normal worksite on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Department encourages employers and employees to collaborate to achieve maximum flexibility. Therefore, if employers and employees agree to intermittent leave on less than a full work day for employees taking paid sick leave to care for their child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, because of COVID-19-related reasons, the Department is supportive of such voluntary arrangements.

22. May I take my expanded family and medical leave intermittently while my child's school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons, if I am not teleworking?

Yes, but only with your employer's permission. Intermittent expanded family and medical leave should be permitted only when you and your employer agree upon such a schedule. For example, if your employer and you agree, you may take expanded family and medical leave on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, but work Tuesdays and Thursdays, while your child is at home because your child's school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons, for the duration of your leave.

The Department encourages employers and employees to collaborate to achieve flexibility. Therefore, if employers and employees agree to intermittent leave on a day-by-day basis, the Department supports such voluntary arrangements.

23. If my employer closed my worksite before April 1, 2020 (the effective date of the FFCRA), can I still get paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

No. If, prior to the FFCRA's effective date, your employer sent you home and stops paying you because it does not have work for you to do, you will not get paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave but you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. This is true whether your employer closes your worksite for lack of business or because it is required to close pursuant to a Federal, State, or local directive. You should contact your State workforce agency or State unemployment insurance office for specific questions about your eligibility. For additional information, please refer to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>.

It should be noted, however, that if your employer is paying you pursuant to a paid leave policy or State or local requirements, you are not eligible for unemployment insurance.

24. If my employer closes my worksite on or after April 1, 2020 (the effective date of the FFCRA), but before I go out on leave, can I still get paid sick leave and/or expanded family and medical leave?

No. If your employer closes after the FFCRA's effective date (even if you requested leave prior to the closure), you will not get paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave but you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. This is true whether your employer closes your worksite for lack of business or because it was required to close pursuant to a Federal, State or local directive. You should contact your State workforce agency or State unemployment insurance office for specific questions about your eligibility. For additional information, please refer to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>.

25. If my employer closes my worksite while I am on paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, what happens?

If your employer closes while you are on paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, your employer must pay for any paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave you used before the employer closed. As of the date your employer closes your worksite, you are no longer entitled to paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, but you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. This is true whether your employer closes your worksite for lack of business or because the employer was required to close pursuant to a Federal, State or local directive. You should contact your State workforce agency or State unemployment insurance office for specific questions about your eligibility. For additional information, please refer to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>.

26. If my employer is open, but furloughs me on or after April 1, 2020 (the effective date of the FFCRA), can I receive paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

No. If your employer furloughs you because it does not have enough work or business for you, you are not entitled to then take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. However, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. You should contact your State workforce agency or State unemployment insurance office for specific questions about your eligibility. For additional information, please refer to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>.

27. If my employer closes my worksite on or after April 1, 2020 (the effective date of the FFCRA), but tells me that it will reopen at some time in the future, can I receive paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

No, not while your worksite is closed. If your employer closes your worksite, even for a short period of time, you are not entitled to take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. However, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. This is true whether your employer closes your worksite for lack of business or because it was required to close pursuant to a Federal, State, or local directive. You should contact your State workforce agency or State unemployment insurance office for specific questions about your eligibility. For additional information, please refer to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>. If your employer reopens and you resume work, you would then be eligible for paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave as warranted.

28. If my employer reduces my scheduled work hours, can I use paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for the hours that I am no longer scheduled to work?

No. If your employer reduces your work hours because it does not have work for you to perform, you may not use paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for the hours that you are no longer scheduled to work. This is because you are not prevented from working those hours due to a COVID-19 qualifying reason, even if your reduction in hours was somehow related to COVID-19.

You may, however, take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave if a COVID-19 qualifying reason prevents you from working your full schedule. If you do, the amount of leave to which you are entitled is computed based on your work schedule before it was reduced (see [Question 5](#)).

29. May I collect unemployment insurance benefits for time in which I receive pay for paid sick leave and/or expanded family and medical leave?

No. If your employer provides you paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, you are not eligible for unemployment insurance. However, each State has its own unique set of rules; and [DOL recently clarified additional flexibility to the States](#) (UIPL 20-10) to extend partial unemployment benefits to workers whose hours or pay have been reduced. Therefore, individuals should contact their State workforce agency or State unemployment insurance office for specific questions about eligibility. For additional information, please refer to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>.

30. If I elect to take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, must my employer continue my health coverage? If I remain on leave beyond the maximum period of expanded family and medical leave, do I have a right to keep my health coverage?

If your employer provides group health coverage that you've elected, you are entitled to continued group health coverage during your expanded family and medical leave on the same terms as if you continued to work. If you are enrolled in family coverage, your employer must maintain coverage during your expanded family and medical leave. You generally must continue to make any normal contributions to the cost of your health coverage. See WHD Fact Sheet 28A: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/28a-fmla-employee-protections>.

If you do not return to work at the end of your expanded family and medical leave, check with your employer to determine whether you are eligible to keep your health coverage on the same terms (including contribution rates). If you are no longer eligible, you may be able to continue your coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). COBRA, which generally applies to employers with 20 or more employees, allows you and your family to continue the same group health coverage at group rates. Your share of that cost may be higher than what you were paying before but may be lower than what you would pay for private individual health insurance coverage. (If your employer has fewer than 20 employees, you may be

eligible to continue your health insurance under State laws that are similar to COBRA. These laws are sometimes referred to as “mini COBRA” and vary from State to State.) Contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/workers-and-families/changing-jobs-and-job-loss> to learn about health and retirement benefit protections for dislocated workers.

If you elect to take paid sick leave, your employer must continue your health coverage. Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), an employer cannot establish a rule for eligibility or set any individual’s premium or contribution rate based on whether an individual is actively at work (including whether an individual is continuously employed), unless absence from work due to any health factor (such as being absent from work on sick leave) is treated, for purposes of the plan or health insurance coverage, as being actively at work.

31. As an employee, may I use my employer’s preexisting leave entitlements and my FFCRA paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave concurrently for the same hours?

No. If you are eligible to take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, as well as paid leave that is already provided by your employer, unless your employer agrees you must choose one type of leave to take. You may not simultaneously take both, unless your employer agrees to allow you to supplement the amount you receive from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, up to your normal earnings, with preexisting leave. For example, if you are receiving 2/3 of your normal earnings from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA and your employer permits, you may use your preexisting employer-provided paid leave to get the additional 1/3 of your normal earnings so that you receive your full normal earnings for each hour.

32. If I am an employer, may I supplement or adjust the pay mandated under the FFCRA with paid leave that the employee may have under my paid leave policy?

If your employee chooses to use existing leave you have provided, yes; otherwise, no. Paid sick leave and expanded family medical leave under the FFCRA is in addition to employees’ preexisting leave entitlements, including Federal employees. Under the FFCRA, the employee may choose to use existing paid vacation, personal, medical, or sick leave from your paid leave policy to supplement the amount your employee receives from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, up to the employee’s normal earnings. Note, however, that you are not entitled to a tax credit for any paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave that is not required to be paid or exceeds the limits set forth under Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

However, you are not required to permit an employee to use existing paid leave to supplement the amount your employee receives from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. Further, you may not claim, and will not receive tax credit, for such supplemental amounts.

33. If I am an employer, may I require an employee to supplement or adjust the pay mandated under the FFCRA with paid leave that the employee may have under my paid leave policy?

No. Under the FFCRA, only the employee may decide whether to use existing paid vacation, personal, medical, or sick leave from your paid leave policy to supplement the amount your employee receives from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. The employee would have to agree to use existing paid leave under your paid leave policy to supplement or adjust the paid leave under the FFCRA.

34. If I want to pay my employees more than they are entitled to receive for paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, can I do so and claim a tax credit for the entire amount paid to them?

You may pay your employees in excess of FFCRA requirements. But you cannot claim, and will not receive tax credit for, those amounts in excess of the FFCRA's statutory limits.

35. I am an employer that is part of a multiemployer collective bargaining agreement, may I satisfy my obligations under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act through contributions to a multiemployer fund, plan, or program?

You may satisfy your obligations under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act by making contributions to a multiemployer fund, plan, or other program in accordance with your existing collective bargaining obligations. These contributions must be based on the amount of paid family and medical leave to which each of your employees is entitled under the Act based on each employee's work under the multiemployer collective bargaining agreement. Such a fund, plan, or other program must allow employees to secure or obtain their pay for the related leave they take under the Act. Alternatively, you may also choose to satisfy your obligations under the Act by other means, provided they are consistent with your bargaining obligations and collective bargaining agreement.

36. I am an employer that is part of a multiemployer collective bargaining agreement, may I satisfy my obligations under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act through contributions to a multiemployer fund, plan, or program?

You may satisfy your obligations under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act by making contributions to a multiemployer fund, plan, or other program in accordance with your existing collective bargaining obligations. These contributions must be based on the hours of paid sick leave to which each of your employees is entitled under the Act based on each employee's work under the multiemployer collective bargaining agreement. Such a fund, plan, or other program must allow employees to secure or obtain their pay for the related leave they take under the Act. Alternatively, you may also choose to satisfy your obligations under the Act by other means, provided they are consistent with your bargaining obligations and collective bargaining agreement.

37. Are contributions to a multiemployer fund, plan, or other program the only way an employer that is part of a multiemployer collective bargaining agreement may comply with the paid

leave requirements of the FFCRA?

No. Both the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act provide that, consistent with its bargaining obligations and collective bargaining agreement, an employer may satisfy its legal obligations under both Acts by making appropriate contributions to such a fund, plan, or other program based on the paid leave owed to each employee. However, the employer may satisfy its obligations under both Acts by other means, provided they are consistent with its bargaining obligations and collective bargaining agreement.

38. Assuming I am a covered employer, which of my employees are eligible for paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave?

Both of these new provisions use the employee definition as provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act, thus all of your U.S. (including Territorial) employees who meet this definition are eligible including full-time and part-time employees, and “joint employees” working on your site temporarily and/or through a temp agency. However, if you employ a health care provider or an emergency responder you are not required to pay such employee paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave on a case-by-case basis. And certain small businesses may exempt employees if the leave would jeopardize the company’s viability as a going concern. See Question 58 below.

There is one difference regarding an employee’s eligibility for paid sick leave versus expanded family and medical leave. While your employee is eligible for paid sick leave regardless of length of employment, your employee must have been employed for 30 calendar days in order to qualify for expanded family and medical leave. For example, if your employee requests expanded family and medical leave on April 10, 2020, he or she must have been your employee since March 11, 2020.

39. Who is a covered employer that must provide paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA?

Generally, if you employ fewer than 500 employees you are a covered employer that must provide paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave. For additional information on the 500 employee threshold, see Question 2. Certain employers with fewer than 50 employees may be exempt from the Act’s requirements to provide certain paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave. For additional information regarding this small business exemption, see Question 4 and Questions 58 and 59 below.

Certain public employers are also covered under the Act and must provide paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave. For additional information regarding coverage of public employers, see Questions 52-54 below.

40. Who is a son or daughter?

Under the FFCRA, a “son or daughter” is your own child, which includes your biological, adopted, or foster child, your stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom you are standing in loco parentis—someone with day-to-day responsibilities to care for or financially support a child. For additional information about in loco parentis, see [Fact Sheet #28B: Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\) leave for birth, placement, bonding or to care for a child with a serious health condition on the basis of an “in loco parentis” relationship.](#)

In light of Congressional direction to interpret definitions consistently, WHD clarifies that under the FFCRA a “son or daughter” is also an adult son or daughter (i.e., one who is 18 years of age or older), who (1) has a mental or physical disability, and (2) is incapable of self-care because of that disability. For additional information on requirements relating to an adult son or daughter, see [Fact Sheet #28K](#) and/or call our toll free information and help line available 8 am–5 pm in your time zone, 1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243).

41. What do I do if my employer, who I believe to be covered, refuses to provide me paid sick leave?

If you believe that your employer is covered and is improperly refusing you paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, the Department encourages you to raise and try to resolve your concerns with your employer. Regardless of whether you discuss your concerns with your employer, if you believe your employer is improperly refusing you paid sick leave, you may call 1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243). WHD is responsible for administering and enforcing these provisions. If you have questions or concerns, you can contact WHD by phone or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/whd. Your call will be directed to the [nearest WHD office](#) for assistance to have your questions answered or to file a complaint. In most cases, you can also file a lawsuit against your employer directly without contacting WHD. If you are a public sector employee, please see the answer to [Question 54](#).

42. What do I do if my employer, who I believe to be covered, refuses to provide me expanded family and medical leave to care for my own son or daughter whose school or place of care has closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, for COVID-19 related reasons?

If you believe that your employer is covered and is improperly refusing you expanded family and medical leave or otherwise violating your rights under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, the Department encourages you to raise and try to resolve your concerns with your employer. Regardless whether you discuss your concerns with your employer, if you believe your employer is improperly refusing you expanded family and medical leave, you may call WHD at 1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243) or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/whd. Your call will be directed to the [nearest WHD office](#) for assistance to have your questions answered or to file a complaint. If your employer employs 50 or more employees, you also may file a lawsuit against your employer directly without contacting WHD. If you are a public sector employee, please see the answer to [Question 54](#).

43. Do I have a right to return to work if I am taking paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act or the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?

Generally, yes. In light of Congressional direction to interpret requirements among the Acts consistently, WHD clarifies that the Acts require employers to provide the same (or a nearly equivalent) job to an employee who returns to work following leave.

In most instances, you are entitled to be restored to the same or an equivalent position upon return from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. Thus, your employer is prohibited from firing, disciplining, or otherwise discriminating against you because you take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave. Nor can your employer fire, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against you because you filed any type of complaint or proceeding relating to these Acts, or have or intend to testify in any such proceeding.

However, you are not protected from employment actions, such as layoffs, that would have affected you regardless of whether you took leave. This means your employer can lay you off for legitimate business reasons, such as the closure of your worksite. Your employer must be able to demonstrate that you would have been laid off even if you had not taken leave.

Your employer may also refuse to return you to work in your same position if you are a highly compensated “key” employee as defined under the FMLA, or if your employer has fewer than 25 employees, and you took leave to care for your own son or daughter whose school or place of care was closed, or whose child care provider was unavailable, and all four of the following hardship conditions exist:

- your position no longer exists due to economic or operating conditions that affect employment and due to COVID-19 related reasons during the period of your leave;
- your employer made reasonable efforts to restore you to the same or an equivalent position;
- your employer makes reasonable efforts to contact you if an equivalent position becomes available; and
- your employer continues to make reasonable efforts to contact you for one year beginning either on the date the leave related to COVID-19 reasons concludes or the date 12 weeks after your leave began, whichever is earlier.

44. Do I qualify for leave for a COVID-19 related reason even if I have already used some or all of my leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)?

If you are an eligible employee, you are entitled to paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act regardless of how much leave you have taken under the FMLA.

However, if your employer was covered by the FMLA prior to April 1, 2020, your eligibility for expanded family and medical leave depends on how much leave you have already taken during the 12-month period that your employer uses for FMLA leave. You may take a total of 12

workweeks for FMLA or expanded family and medical leave reasons during a 12-month period. If you have taken some, but not all, 12 workweeks of your leave under FMLA during the current 12-month period determined by your employer, you may take the remaining portion of leave available. If you have already taken 12 workweeks of FMLA leave during this 12-month period, you may not take additional expanded family and medical leave.

For example, assume you are eligible for preexisting FMLA leave and took two weeks of such leave in January 2020 to undergo and recover from a surgical procedure. You therefore have 10 weeks of FMLA leave remaining. Because expanded family and medical leave is a type of FMLA leave, you would be entitled to take up to 10 weeks of expanded family and medical leave, rather than 12 weeks. And any expanded family and medical leave you take would count against your entitlement to preexisting FMLA leave.

If your employer only becomes covered under the FMLA on April 1, 2020, this analysis does not apply.

45. May I take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act over the next 12 months if I used some or all of my expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?

It depends. You may take a total of 12 workweeks of leave during a 12-month period under the FMLA, including the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. If you take some, but not all 12, workweeks of your expanded family and medical leave by December 31, 2020, you may take the remaining portion of FMLA leave for a serious medical condition, as long as the total time taken does not exceed 12 workweeks in the 12-month period. Please note that expanded family and medical leave is available only until December 31, 2020; after that, you may only take FMLA leave.

For example, assume you take four weeks of Expanded Family and Medical Leave in April 2020 to care for your child whose school is closed due to a COVID-19 related reason. These four weeks count against your entitlement to 12 weeks of FMLA leave in a 12-month period. If you are eligible for preexisting FMLA leave and need to take such leave in August 2020 because you need surgery, you would be entitled to take up to eight weeks of FMLA leave.

However, you are entitled to paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act regardless of how much leave you have taken under the FMLA. Paid sick leave is not a form of FMLA leave and therefore does not count toward the 12 workweeks in the 12-month period cap. But please note that if you take paid sick leave concurrently with the first two weeks of expanded family and medical leave, which may otherwise be unpaid, then those two weeks do count towards the 12 workweeks in the 12-month period.

46. If I take paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, does that count against other types of paid sick leave to which I am entitled under State or local law, or my employer's policy?

No. Paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act is in addition to other leave provided under Federal, State, or local law; an applicable collective bargaining agreement; or your employer's existing company policy.

47. May I use paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave together for any COVID-19 related reasons?

No. The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act applies only when you are on leave to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons. However, you can take paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act for numerous other reasons.

48. What is a full-time employee under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act?

For purposes of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, a full-time employee is an employee who is normally scheduled to work 40 or more hours per week.

In contrast, the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act does not distinguish between full- and part-time employees, but the number of hours an employee normally works each week will affect the amount of pay the employee is eligible to receive.

49. What is a part-time employee under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act?

For purposes of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, a part-time employee is an employee who is normally scheduled to work fewer than 40 hours per week.

In contrast, the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act does not distinguish between full- and part-time employees, but the number of hours an employee normally works each week affects the amount of pay the employee is eligible to receive.

50. How does the “for each working day during each of the 20 or more calendar workweeks in the current or preceding calendar” language in the FMLA definition of “employer” work under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?

The language about counting employees over calendar workweeks is only in the FMLA's definition for employer. This language does not apply to the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act for purposes of expanded family and medical leave. Employers should use the number of employees on the day the employee's leave would start to determine whether the employer has fewer than 500 employees for purposes of providing expanded family and medical leave and paid sick leave. See [Question 2](#) for more information.

51. I've elected to take paid sick leave and I am currently in a waiting period for my employer's health coverage. If I am absent from work on paid sick leave during the waiting period, will my health coverage still take effect after I complete the waiting period on the same day that the coverage would otherwise take effect?

Yes. If you are on employer-provided group health coverage, you are entitled to group health coverage during your paid sick leave on the same terms as if you continued to work. Therefore, the requirements for eligibility, including any requirement to complete a waiting period, would apply in the same way as if you continued to work, including that the days you are on paid sick leave count towards completion of the waiting period. If, under the terms of the plan, an individual can elect coverage that becomes effective after completing the waiting period, the health coverage must take effect once the waiting period is complete.

52. I am a public sector employee. May I take paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act?

Generally, yes. You are entitled to paid sick leave if you work for a public agency or other unit of government, with the exceptions below. Therefore, you are probably entitled to paid sick leave if, for example, you work for the government of the United States, a State, the District of Columbia, a Territory or possession of the United States, a city, a municipality, a township, a county, a parish, or a similar government entity subject to the exceptions below. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has the authority to exclude some categories of U.S. Government Executive Branch employees from taking certain kinds of paid sick leave. If you are a Federal employee, the Department encourages you to seek guidance from your respective employers as to your eligibility to take paid sick leave.

Further, health care providers and emergency responders may be excluded by their employer from being able to take paid sick leave under the Act. See [Questions 56-57](#) below. These coverage limits also apply to public-sector health care providers and emergency responders.

53. I am a public sector employee. May I take paid family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?

It depends. In general, you are entitled to expanded family and medical leave if you are an employee of a non-federal public agency. Therefore, you are probably entitled to paid sick leave if, for example, you work for the government of a State, the District of Columbia, a Territory or possession of the United States, a city, a municipality, a township, a county, a parish, or a similar entity.

But if you are a Federal employee, you likely are not entitled to expanded family and medical leave. The Act only amended Title I of the FMLA; most Federal employees are covered instead by Title II of the FMLA. As a result, only some Federal employees are covered, and the vast majority are not. In addition, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has the authority to exclude some categories of U.S. Government Executive Branch employees with respect to expanded and family medical leave. If you are a Federal employee, the Department encourages you to seek guidance from your respective employers as to your eligibility to take expanded family and medical leave.

Further, health care providers and emergency responders may be excluded by their employer from being able to take expanded family and medical leave under the Act. See [Questions 56-57](#) below. These coverage limits also apply to public-sector health care providers and emergency responders.

54. What do I do if my public sector employer, who I believe to be covered, refuses to provide me paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

If you believe that your public sector employer is covered and is improperly refusing you paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act or expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, the Department encourages you to raise your concerns with your employer in an attempt to resolve them. Regardless whether you discuss your concerns with your employer, if you believe your employer is improperly refusing you paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, you may call WHD at 1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243) or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/whd. Your call will be directed to the nearest WHD office for assistance to have your questions answered or to file a complaint.

In some cases, you may also be able to file a lawsuit against your employer directly without contacting WHD. Some State and local employees may not be able to pursue direct lawsuits because their employers are immune from such lawsuits. For additional information, see the WHD website at: <https://www.wagehour.dol.gov> and/or call WHD's toll free information and help line available 8am–5pm in your time zone, 1-866-4-US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243).

55. Who is a “health care provider” for purposes of determining individuals whose advice to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 can be relied on as a qualifying reason for paid sick leave?

The term “health care provider,” as used to determine individuals whose advice to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 can be relied on as a qualifying reason for paid sick leave, means a licensed doctor of medicine, nurse practitioner, or other health care provider permitted to issue a certification for purposes of the FMLA.

56. Who is a “health care provider” who may be excluded by their employer from paid sick leave and/or expanded family and medical leave?

For the purposes of employees who may be exempted from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave by their employer under the FFCRA, a health care provider is anyone employed at any doctor's office, hospital, health care center, clinic, post-secondary educational institution offering health care instruction, medical school, local health department or agency, nursing facility, retirement facility, nursing home, home health care provider, any facility that performs laboratory or medical testing, pharmacy, or any similar institution, employer, or entity. This includes any permanent or temporary institution, facility, location, or site where medical services are provided that are similar to such institutions.

This definition includes any individual employed by an entity that contracts with any of the above institutions, employers, or entities institutions to provide services or to maintain the operation of the facility. This also includes anyone employed by any entity that provides medical services, produces medical products, or is otherwise involved in the making of COVID-19 related medical equipment, tests, drugs, vaccines, diagnostic vehicles, or treatments. This also includes any individual that the highest official of a state or territory, including the District of Columbia, determines is a health care provider necessary for that state's or territory's or the District of Columbia's response to COVID-19.

To minimize the spread of the virus associated with COVID-19, the Department encourages employers to be judicious when using this definition to exempt health care providers from the provisions of the FFCRA.

57. Who is an emergency responder?

For the purposes of employees who may be excluded from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave by their employer under the FFCRA, an emergency responder is an employee who is necessary for the provision of transport, care, health care, comfort, and nutrition of such patients, or whose services are otherwise needed to limit the spread of COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to military or national guard, law enforcement officers, correctional institution personnel, fire fighters, emergency medical services personnel, physicians, nurses, public health personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency management personnel, 911 operators, public works personnel, and persons with skills or training in operating specialized equipment or other skills needed to provide aid in a declared emergency as well as individuals who work for such facilities employing these individuals and whose work is necessary to maintain the operation of the facility. This also includes any individual that the highest official of a state or territory, including the District of Columbia, determines is an emergency responder necessary for that state's or territory's or the District of Columbia's response to COVID-19.

To minimize the spread of the virus associated with COVID-19, the Department encourages employers to be judicious when using this definition to exempt emergency responders from the provisions of the FFCRA.

58. When does the small business exemption apply to exclude a small business from the provisions of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?

An employer, including a religious or nonprofit organization, with fewer than 50 employees (small business) is exempt from providing (a) paid sick leave due to school or place of care closures or child care provider unavailability for COVID-19 related reasons and (b) expanded family and medical leave due to school or place of care closures or child care provider unavailability for COVID-19 related reasons when doing so would jeopardize the viability of the small business as a going concern. A small business may claim this exemption if an authorized officer of the business has determined that:

1. The provision of paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave would result in the small business's expenses and financial obligations exceeding available business revenues and cause the small business to cease operating at a minimal capacity;
2. The absence of the employee or employees requesting paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave would entail a substantial risk to the financial health or operational capabilities of the small business because of their specialized skills, knowledge of the business, or responsibilities; or
3. There are not sufficient workers who are able, willing, and qualified, and who will be available at the time and place needed, to perform the labor or services provided by the employee or employees requesting paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, and these labor or services are needed for the small business to operate at a minimal capacity.

59. If I am a small business with fewer than 50 employees, am I exempt from the requirements to provide paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

A small business is exempt from certain paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave requirements if providing an employee such leave would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern. This means a small business is exempt from mandated paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave requirements only if the:

- employer employs fewer than 50 employees;
- leave is requested because the child's school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons; and
- an authorized officer of the business has determined that at least one of the three conditions described in Question 58 is satisfied.

The Department encourages employers and employees to collaborate to reach the best solution for maintaining the business and ensuring employee safety.

[1] If you are a Federal employee, you are eligible to take paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. But only some Federal employees are eligible to take expanded family and medical leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. Your eligibility will depend on whether you are covered under Title I or Title II of the Family Medical Leave Act. Federal employees should consult with their agency regarding their eligibility for expanded family and medical leave. The Office of Personnel and Management will provide information on federal employee coverage. Additional FAQs regarding public sector employers will be forthcoming.

[2] If you are a Federal employee, the State or local minimum wage would be used to calculate the wages owed to you only if the Federal agency that employs you has broad authority to set your compensation and has decided to use the State or local minimum wage.



Wage and Hour Division

An agency within the U.S.
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U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$20.3 Million in Grants to Improve Transportation Access Through Innovative Technologies

3-16-2020

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced approximately \$20.3 million in grant selections through the [Integrated Mobility Innovation \(IMI\) program](#). IMI supports projects that use innovative technologies and processes to improve access to public transportation, increase public transportation efficiency, and enhance the overall rider experience. [Twenty-five projects in 23 states](#) will receive funding under the program.

"These \$20.3 million in federal grants will help communities nationwide enhance their transportation systems to make it easier for people to use transit, especially older adults and people with disabilities," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

The projects will advance mobility through creative partnerships and emerging technologies. Combining public and private transportation assets and strategies can greatly increase access to mobility for everyone.

"Innovation is integral to the future of transit," said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. "The IMI program is part of our increased emphasis on innovation that accelerates mobility to provide seamless travel for riders."

IMI advances FTA's vision of mobility for all by promoting equitable, accessible, and safe transportation for all Americans. Examples of selected IMI projects include:

- The Central Ohio Transit Authority will receive \$1.7 million to develop a platform that combines traffic and transit management data and uses artificial intelligence to improve safety and efficiency, develop new channels of communication, and improve the rider experience across the region.

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- Arlington, Texas will receive \$1.7 million to integrate autonomous vehicles into its on-demand car-sharing service, which will include a wheelchair accessible vehicle and accommodate University of Texas-Arlington students.
- The Baldwin County (Alabama) Commission will receive approximately \$261,000 to replace its outdated 24-hour-advance request transportation system with an on-demand rural transit network tailored to increase access to jobs, schools, and health care appointments. Riders will benefit from integrated trip planning and payment mechanisms, as well as automated routing and scheduling.

FTA issued the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the IMI program in the summer of 2019. In response to the NOFO, FTA received 104 eligible project proposals totaling approximately \$107 million.

FTA is making innovation a priority in the year ahead through the [Accelerating Innovative Mobility \(AIM\) initiative](#) announced in January 2020. FTA is collaborating with the transit industry as it works to meet the increasing expectations of transit riders.

###

Updated: Monday, March 16, 2020



Related Links

- [Integrated Mobility Innovation Program](#)
- [Integrated Mobility Innovation \(IMI\) Fiscal Year 2019 Selected Projects](#)

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Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Fiscal Year 2019 Selected Projects

Click on a header to sort by that column.

Project Sponsor	Project Description	Funding
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	The Matanuska-Susitna Borough will receive funding on behalf of four rural transit providers to implement a platform that centralizes dispatch, fleet management, call-taking and payment across providers. The system will assign trips to the lowest-cost, eligible provider and allow riders flexible request and payment options.	\$231,191
Baldwin County Commission	The Baldwin County Commission will receive funding to create a mobility-on-demand platform to automate routing, scheduling and dispatching technology. It will enhance transit access for all residents of the Mobile area while increasing efficiency, reducing wait times and improving reliability.	\$260,800
San Joaquin Regional Transit District	The San Joaquin Regional Transit District will receive funding to create standard payment integration and trip planning apps across local and regional transit providers. Riders will be able to access and pay for services by multiple providers on the same trip. The project will include marketing and rider-education strategies.	\$306,000
City of Boulder, Colorado	The City of Boulder will receive funding to develop autonomous route optimization software to provide on-demand, wheelchair-accessible transportation to older adults, people with disabilities, and	\$224,000

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Project Sponsor	Project Description	Funding
	low-income individuals. The software will process ride requests and re-organize routes in real time to expand capacity, reduce costs and better meet rider needs.	
Connecticut Department of Transportation	The Connecticut Department of Transportation will test automated, electric buses on its CTfastrack bus rapid transit corridor to improve safety for riders with disabilities. Precision, automated docking and platooning will eliminate driver errors that result in wide platform gaps and other unsafe situations and also will reduce delays.	\$2,000,000
Greater Hartford Transit District	The Greater Hartford Transit District will receive funding to develop a responsive, 24/7 transportation option for older adults and people with disabilities to fill gaps in service throughout Connecticut. The District will partner with a paratransit provider and use technology and "smart" routing to improve response times and the traveler experience.	\$630,000
Georgia Regional Transportation Authority for Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL)	The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority on behalf of Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority will receive funding to develop a multi-modal journey planning application to include live navigation and integrated mobility payment options to provide a seamless passenger experience throughout the Atlanta region.	\$430,400
Kootenai County	Kootenai County will receive funding to explore an open architecture fare payment system. The project will close gaps in transportation services in Idaho's second-most populous region, while determining cost effective and efficient transportation options and solutions for riders.	\$150,000
City of Columbus	The City of Columbus, Indiana will receive funding to develop an automated shuttle circulator to increase transit options and reduce wait times. The routes will mainly serve riders who are low-income, seniors, and people with disabilities.	\$320,620

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Project Sponsor	Project Description	Funding
Cecil County, Maryland	Cecil County, Maryland, will receive funding to expand on-demand transit service to increase accessibility and provide more mobility options to people in substance recovery. The project will create a complete trip service model providing access to jobs, school, shopping, legal services and other vital services.	\$562,845
Independent Transportation Network (ITN)	The Independent Transportation Network will receive funding to expand its mobility-on-demand transit model designed for older adults and people with disabilities in Portland, Maine, to new rural communities in Maine, Kentucky and California. Using an automated routing and scheduling platform, it will increase access to trips.	\$1,658,025
Michigan Department of Transportation	The Michigan Department of Transportation will receive funding on behalf of three regional agencies in northwest Michigan to develop a mobility-on-demand service to meet the non-emergency medical transportation needs of rural residents. The grant will support technology that consolidates dispatch scheduling, asset condition reports and security systems across the agencies.	\$276,499
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency will receive funding to link rural residents in northeast Minnesota to multiple public transit systems using on-demand transit and private taxi providers to enhance first mile/last mile options for riders. The project will include an online portal and website focused on coordinating rural transportation services.	\$952,807
Wake County Human Services	Wake County Human Services will receive funding to initiate an on-demand service to provide residents in rural areas with greater access to jobs, school, healthcare and other services. The organization will launch micro-transit services that provide a "first five-mile, last five-mile" approach to connect rural residents with more distant services.	\$393,527

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Project Sponsor	Project Description	Funding
Tompkins County	Tompkins County will receive funding to develop a multi-modal trip planning platform that integrates information on bus services, demand-response service, taxis, volunteer transportation, car-share and bike-share services. The platform will enable riders in rural upstate New York to plan multi-modal trips through a mobile app and web platform.	\$820,000
Central Ohio Transit Authority	The Central Ohio Transit Authority will receive funding to unify multiple streams of traffic and transit management data on a cloud-based platform and use artificial intelligence to enhance operations, improve safety and efficiency, develop new channels of communication, and improve the rider experience across the region.	\$1,725,000
Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA)	The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority will receive funding to develop an innovative alternative payment system for mobility, business and personal applications targeted to low-income, disadvantaged, disabled, student, elderly and other underserved populations.	\$1,997,503
Grand Gateway Economic Development Association	The Grand Gateway Economic Development Association will receive funding to introduce an integrated, on-demand shared-ride service in 21 rural communities in eastern and central Oklahoma. Using intelligent transportation systems, the project will connect four regional rural public transit partners with predictive scheduling and routing technology that helps riders tailor trips to meet their needs.	\$1,514,479
Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon	TriMet will receive funding to develop a mobility payment system that integrates payment for multiple modes into a single transaction. The project will build on TriMet's multimodal trip planner to reduce travel stress with better real-time arrival predictions.	\$1,812,282

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Project Sponsor	Project Description	Funding
Crawford Area Transportation Authority (CATA)	The Crawford Area Transportation Authority in rural northwestern Pennsylvania will receive funding to develop a unified system for riders taking fixed route and paratransit by combining rider validation for paratransit services with mobile ticketing. The platform will streamline the experience of taking a multi-modal trip for riders on either mode.	\$715,233
Coordinated Community Transportation Systems on behalf of River Cities Public Transit	River Cities Public Transit will receive funding to expand a program that provides transportation for oncology patients to a large hospital in central South Dakota to all types of patients within a 60-mile radius. The project will feature an integrated single payment system and allow Avera St. Mary's Hospital to hire a full-time transportation coordinator to advocate the service.	\$401,760
Memphis Area Transit Authority	The Memphis Area Transit Authority will receive funding to implement a micro-transit on-demand project in the Boxtown/Westwood neighborhood of Memphis, a low-density, suburban neighborhood with a large elderly population and infrequent transit service. Riders will be able to request rides using a mobile application or call center to destinations such as healthcare, grocery stores or government services, as well as connect to the existing transit network.	\$394,000
City of Arlington	The City of Arlington will receive funding to integrate autonomous vehicles into its existing on-demand system operated with the Via car-sharing service. The service will include a wheelchair accessible vehicle and allow University of Texas at Arlington students to ride fare free.	\$1,698,558
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation	The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will receive funding to provide microtransit in rural communities in the Tidewater region. The project will augment existing transit resources by leveraging mobile technology for real-time trip booking and vehicle routing, providing	\$160,930

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Project Sponsor	Project Description	Funding
Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)	<p>real-time, demand-response microtransit service.</p> <p>The Whatcom Transportation Authority will receive funding to provide on-demand transit service to residents in the small city of Lynden in northwest Washington. A new on-demand mobile app will allow seniors, school-aged children, people with disabilities, and people with limited income to hail an accessible van to any destination within the city.</p>	\$719,388

Total Funds:
\$20,355,847

Updated: Monday, March 16, 2020

Related Links

- [Integrated Mobility Innovation Program](#)
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STEERING COMMITTEE

March 24, 2020

I am writing to express my support for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's 2019 Disaster Supplement application to the Economic Development Agency (EDA) for Port MacKenzie, Alaska. The grant would support critical dock improvements and preliminary design work for roll-on/roll-off capabilities.

The project would improve the State's economic resiliency in the event of a regional disaster or localized industrial accident impacting the Port of Alaska. Port MacKenzie is in a position to provide deep draft or barge vessel docking and cargo transfer services in the event of a major disaster. The grant funds would be utilized to make seismically beneficial upgrades to the Port's facilities and significantly prolong the service life of the Port.

Port MacKenzie is one component of a multimodal State of Alaska funded transportation infrastructure project which includes the Cook Inlet Bridge and the Port MacKenzie Rail Spur. These facilities were planned to work in concert with each other to open expansive areas of the State to economic development including mining, timber and other natural resource development. Port MacKenzie is a critical node for both international exports, and improved rail and road connections for import of cargo to the interior of the State.

Port MacKenzie is a key element of the State's future regional transportation system and it provides necessary redundancy capabilities to the Port of Alaska. The proposed project provides both resiliency and increased economic security for both local and statewide economies. I ask that you please provide due consideration of this application and all other Alaskan grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Young". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DON YOUNG
Congressman for All Alaska

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
[HTTPS://DON YOUNG.HOUSE.GOV/](https://donyoung.house.gov/)

471 W 36TH AVENUE
SUITE 201
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503
907-271-5978

100 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 307
P.O. Box 73110
FAIRBANKS, AK 99707
907-456-0210

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

United States Senate

March 24, 2020

Ms. Shirley Kelly
Alaska Economic Development Representative
U.S. Department of Commerce
Alaska Field Office
510 L Street, Suite 444
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Kelly:

I am writing to express my support of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's 2019 Disaster Supplement application to the Economic Development Agency (EDA) for Port MacKenzie upgrades. At an estimated cost of \$5 Million, this project consists of preliminary design work for roll-on/roll-off capabilities and a combination of sleeves and coatings for existing piles. These upgrades would extend the life of this facility, which is a potential back up to Port of Alaska in the case of regional disaster.

Historically Alaska is seismically active making it prone to earthquakes and tsunamis capable of damaging critical infrastructure. Port of Alaska is a potential single point of failure through which a large amount of cargo passes to sustain the entire state. Port MacKenzie is in a position to provide deep draft or barge vessel docking and cargo transfer services in the event of a major disaster.

The facilities at Port MacKenzie are currently fully functional but the deep draft dock piles are slowly deteriorating. The addition of pile sleeves and protective coatings would extend the useful life of the existing piles. The expected life of these piles without sleeves is approximately 30 years. The piles have been in place for 15 years and are beginning to show signs of deterioration. Pile sleeves would protect welds from corrosion, pitting and abrasion caused by glacial silt, reducing maintenance costs while improving earthquake resiliency and extending the life of the piles by 15 to 20 years.

I am honored to represent all Alaskans, and I ask that you give all due considerations to any Alaskan organization being considered for these grants. Thank you for considering funding this project, and I ask that you consider it consistent with the policies and procedures of your agency.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665

(202) 224-5301 FAX

March 26, 2020

510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

250 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 2D
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-7277

44539 STERLING HIGHWAY, SUITE 203
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
(907) 262-4220

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6059
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

Ms. Shirley Kelly
Alaska Economic Development Representative
U.S. Department of Commerce
Alaska Field Office
510 L Street, Suite 444
Anchorage, AK 99501

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my attention that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (the "Borough") submitted an application for a grant opportunity from the EDA 2019 Disaster Supplement (funding opportunity # EDA-2019-DISASTER) for deep draft dock pile protection and preliminary design work for roll-on/roll-off capabilities at Port MacKenzie (the "Project") following the earthquake disaster of 2018, which caused significant damage to much of our infrastructure in the southcentral region of Alaska. Port MacKenzie is located in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska and operated by the Borough. I would like to make you aware of the Borough's application and highlight the importance of and the economic impact this Project could have on our state and local economy.

On November 30, 2018, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck the southcentral region of Alaska, causing unprecedented damage to homes, businesses, schools, roads, highways, and other infrastructure, including our port. The full economic impacts of this disaster are still being assessed today. The 2018 earthquake resulted in a FEMA-approved disaster declaration to assist many in rebuilding and repairing the damage caused by the earthquake. This event significantly tested the infrastructure we rely on to provide and transport goods, commodities and materials throughout our state, including the soundness of our ports, such as Port MacKenzie.

Port MacKenzie is one component of a multimodal State of Alaska funded transportation infrastructure project which includes the Cook Inlet Bridge and the Port MacKenzie Rail Spur. These facilities were planned to work in concert with each other to open expansive areas of the State to economic development including mining, timber and other natural resource development. Port MacKenzie is critical for both international exports, and improved rail and road connections for import of cargo to the interior regions of Alaska.

Port MacKenzie is a key element of our infrastructure system and it provides insurance against another disaster in Alaska. This Project will harden the facility against future disasters preserving the economic opportunities available to a functioning port. An investment in pile sleeves and roll-on/roll-off capability for Port MacKenzie improves resiliency for both local and statewide economies. I understand this Project is estimated to cost \$5 Million and will consist of design work for improved capabilities and a combination of sleeves and coatings for piles, would extend the life of this facility, including serving as potential back up to the Port of Alaska, located in the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska. The majority of cargo passes through the Port of Alaska for distribution throughout the state of Alaska. In the event of a disaster that shut down the Port of Alaska that could cut that logistical connection leaving the State with

major problems keeping residents fed and the economy fueled. This Project would improve the economic resiliency of the State in the event of a regional disaster or localized industrial accident. Port MacKenzie is in a position to provide deep draft or barge vessel docking and cargo transfer services in the event of a major disaster. This Project would strengthen the existing piles and improve the survivability rate of the deep draft dock should another earthquake of significant magnitude occur.

For the reasons outlined above, I support the Borough's application for this EDA 2019 Disaster Supplement grant. It is not my place to evaluate the merits of the Borough's application or express favor for one Alaskan applicant over another. However, consistent with applicable law, policy, and guidance, I respectfully ask that you give due consideration to the Borough's application for funding.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Gerri Sumpter in my Wasilla, Alaska office at 907-376-7665 or via email at gerri_sumpter@murkowski.senate.gov. I also ask that you keep Ms. Sumpter updated on the outcome of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

John.Moosey@matsugov.us

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
The Honorable David Wilson, District D
The Honorable Mike Shower, District E
The Honorable Shelley Hughes, District F
The Honorable Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, District 7
Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G

The Honorable Mark Neuman, District 8
The Honorable George Rauscher, District 9
The Honorable David Eastman, District 10
The Honorable DeLena Johnson, District 11
The Honorable Cathy Tilton, District 12

RE: Funding for the Larson and Chelatna Lake Weirs for 2020

Dear Governor Dunleavy, Mat-Su Valley Senators and Representatives and Commissioner Vincent-Lang,

We learned recently that funding for the Larson and Chelatna Lake weirs located in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough may be cut. We are concerned about any cuts to these two weir programs, and would ask that their funding, approximately \$115,000, be maintained for the 2020 fishing season.

After years of declines in salmon returns to the Mat-Su, we were pleased by actions taken by the Board of Fisheries that will return more salmon to Mat-Su waters. These actions include delisting Susitna Sockeye as a Stock of Yield Concern, and creating a new personal use fishery on a portion of the Susitna River. Moreover, ADF&G has been doing active Northern Pike suppression on Chelatna Lake to alleviate predation on salmon. These actions behoove us to keep close tabs on salmon returns to the Mat-Su, which the Larson and Chelatna Lake weirs do. The absence of in-season management tools like these weirs force managers to be more conservative in their decision-making, which may not be good for the system. Maintaining these weirs results in better management of our fishery resources in the Mat-Su.

Given this background, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough respectfully requests that funding for the Larson and Chelatna Lake weirs be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John M. Moosey
Borough Manager

cc: Borough Mayor and Assembly
John Harris

r

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 31, 2020

John Moosey
Mat-Su Borough Manager
350 E. Dahlia Avenue
Palme, AK 99645

RE: MSBSD FY21 Preliminary Budget

Dear Mr. Moosey,

During its March 18, 2020 meeting, the Mat-Su Borough School District School Board approved the District's FY2021 Preliminary Budget and Resolution 20-012, which requests 6.30 mills of the area-wide revenue, or \$62,310,148 to be the Borough's local contribution to education.

Per Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code Section 3.04.020(b), I have attached the resolution and a [link](#) to the FY21 Preliminary Budget document, which is being provided in a digital format this year amid safety concerns related to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Monica Goyette, Ed.D.
Superintendent for the Mat-Su Borough School District



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD
RESOLUTION 20-012**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD TO
APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET TO
THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WITH A REQUEST FOR LOCAL FUNDING.**

WHEREAS, Borough code 3.04.046 establishes the Borough Manager shall prepare the annual budget with education annual operating funds provided to the School District at a dollar amount equivalent of a 6.30 mill tax levy on the full and true value of the taxable real and personal property for the upcoming fiscal year as of February 1st; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Manager provided official correspondence related to local education funding on January 27th, indicating the local education funding to be \$62,310,148 for Fiscal Year 2021 based on 6.30 mills of the estimated full and true value of taxable real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, Borough Ordinance 3.040.020(b) establishes the School District shall submit to the Assembly the school budget for the following fiscal year, together with a school budget message the first day of April; and

WHEREAS, the School District has prepared a balanced budget for its General Fund of \$257,628,136 and has met all the requirement of Borough Ordinances 3.04.020, 3.04.050, and 3.04.055; and

WHEREAS, the School District has held numerous public meetings and hearings to meet all the requirements of both the State of Alaska and the Borough Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the School District has posted all of its budget documents online for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the School District's 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget includes a request for local funding in the amount of \$62,310,148; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District respectfully submits its 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and, as a component of budgeted revenue, requests 6.30 mills of the area-wide revenue or \$62,310,148 as the Borough's local contribution to education.

APPROVED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board this 18th day of March 2020.

Thomas E. Bergey

Thomas Bergey, Board President

Monica Goyette

Dr. Monica Goyette, Superintendent

ATTEST:

Stacy Escobedo

Stacy Escobedo, Board Secretary





MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-7833 • Fax (907) 861-7876

April 3, 2020

Assembly Members
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 E. Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645

RE: FY2021 Budget request for Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dear Assembly members:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is a nine-member, all-volunteer commission appointed by the Borough Mayor and Assembly to advise on fisheries and wildlife issues and advocate on behalf of Borough priorities to the Board of Fish and the Board of Game. In the past, the FWC has been requested to provide information to legislative committees in Juneau, attend fisheries meetings in Kenai, and participate in the Board of Fish and Board of Game meetings in the region. These meetings have required expenditures by the Borough for travel expenses including mileage, plane fare, lodging, parking, and meals. The Planning Department provides valuable staff support to the commission and has covered commission expenses in the past including research contracts, publication costs, and travel expenses.

In FY2021, the FWC will be working to educate key parties about our successful BOF meeting cycle this February where the BOF implemented several proposals that we advocated for to return more salmon in the Mat-Su. We have learned that highlighting these successes is a critical step in preparing to maintain these gains at the next BOF meeting in 2023, and that these efforts should start now. We want to engage community partners and citizens, and build relationships with key groups to build capacity for the next BOF meeting cycle. We want to connect the increased return of salmon and consequent positive impacts on local commerce to the work done, and set the stage for the future work. This will be in addition to continued engagement with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) process to amend the federal Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. These efforts will require financial support to implement.

We respectfully request allocation of funding for the commission in the FY2021 budget (**\$10,000**) so we can continue to work on behalf of the citizens of the Mat-Su to protect fish and wildlife resources and habitat for the benefit of our community and maximum utilization by all user groups. This request is similar to what we have asked for in the past non-BOF years, and we hope to use this support to continue our important work on fisheries and wildlife on behalf of the citizens of the Mat-Su.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Mike Wood, Chair

cc: Mayor Vern Halter
Borough Manager John Moosey
Planning Director Eileen Probasco

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community