



City of Port Heiden

PORT HEIDEN, ALASKA 99549

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HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION

A DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO REDUCE THE IMPACT AND SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19 THROUGH PORT HEIDEN

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus ("virus"), a new strain of the corona virus that has not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the virus a pandemic; Alaska Governor Dunleavy issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 in Alaska; and on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks; and,

WHEREAS, twelve positive cases of COVID-19 have been identified within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a proactive approach taken by individual and communities to slow the rate of infection will reduce the negative impact on our healthcare system; and,

WHEREAS, a declaration of a local health emergency will alert the public to the seriousness of the risk, and provide direction to sources of information and other available public health resources all while the City of Port Heiden works in cooperation with other local and state agencies through the City of Port Heiden office emergency management to implement actions and responses to address the probable COVID-19 outbreak.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the recommendation of the Port Heiden City Council, I now declare a disaster emergency in the City of Port Heiden based on the risk to the public posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial economic impacts to the City of Port Heiden as provided by AS 26.23.140, the intent of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster or emergency plans, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans. Further, I hereby request that the City Council of Port Heiden continue this declaration until the COVID-19 virus is no longer a threat to the community of Port Heiden.

Mayor; Scott W. Anderson

City Clerk; Shane Fortune



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healthcare system. The best way to do this is to follow the recommendations above and to reduce contact with others as much as possible.

The City and Tribe are working on a telephonic meeting system to safely continue meeting while still allowing the public opportunity to participate. Information about how to call in and attend any City Council meetings telephonically will be released as soon as it is available.

For more information on COVID-19, how the state is responding, and additional resources, go to: <http://coronavirus.alaska.gov> or call 2-1-1.

I am confident that we can work together as a community to keep our citizens, especially our Elders and high-risk residents, safe from this global pandemic.

Thank you,

Scott W. Anderson

Mayor, City of Port Heiden

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March 20, 2020

Citizens of Port Heiden,

Today, under authority granted to me under AS 26.23.140. I am declaring a local disaster emergency as a proactive measure to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus, to open emergency funding, and to allow us to formally request state and federal support to help our village get through the COVID-19 pandemic. To be clear, there are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in Port Heiden. The City & Village Council met and formalized this declaration with a resolution.

We are urging all Port Heiden residents who are returning from travel, regardless of the method of transport, to take proactive steps to reduce any potential transmission of any virus. As recommended by the CDC, individual actions that can be taken to prevent virus transmission include washing your hands regularly, coughing or sneezing into your elbow, avoiding touching your face, and participating in social distancing. These methods should be practiced by everyone, whether you have recently traveled or not. We also strongly urge self-reporting any potential COVID-19 contact to the Port Heiden Health Clinic. When returning from travel, please make every effort possible to avoid contact with any community members who are identified as members of high-risk groups, which are people over the age of 65 and people with any chronic medical conditions. While it is very important to avoid contact with high-risk groups, you should also avoid contact with any person regardless of their risk group, if possible until it is determined that you are not infected.

We are asking that all travel that goes outside of Port Heiden be limited to essential travel only. Many regional events have already been cancelled, all non-emergency Medicaid travel has been cancelled, school has been cancelled, and we are sure that more closures and cancellations are on the way.

We do not have the multitude of businesses that other towns have, however we are requesting that if possible, employees be allowed to work from home. In addition we are strongly suggesting that all businesses take steps to prevent large gatherings at their locations and enforce strict hygiene requirements if gatherings cannot be avoided.

Effective immediately all offices at Rays' Place will be closed except for those functions which are essential to maintain the health, safety, and security of the citizens of Port Heiden. City will be closed until further notice, fuel, electricity, water, sewer, and garbage collections services will continue as normal.

We understand that many local children utilize the school breakfast and lunch program. We are pleased to share that the Lake and Peninsula School District has already taken steps to continue providing meals during this time.

It is vital that we all work together as a community to reduce the risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus, slow its spread, and avoid overwhelming our community clinic and healthcare workers and regional