

From Mayor Stephen Prysunka (March 25, 2020)

Please remember that our best defense against COVID-19 is our willingness to abide by all current recommendations and restrictions put forth by officials. This includes social distancing, maintaining proper hygiene (hand washing and eliminating/reducing face-touching) and restricting engagement of essential activities to the lowest frequency possible.

Limit all contact with others not already in your immediate household, plan grocery, gasoline, essential work duties with social isolation and reduced frequency in mind.

As we receive those coming home from outside communities please encourage them to observe quarantine restrictions as specified. Alaska has just instituted a new law that requires all travelers returning to Alaska to self-quarantine for 14 days. The penalties for violating these mandates include a fine of up to \$25,000 and one year in prison.

Our small island community is uniquely poised to respond to such an unprecedented crisis in a unified way that protects our citizens. At the same time, we are also extremely vulnerable to the consequences of exposure or rapid spread due to our age demographics, limited medical services, transport limitations, the simple remoteness of our community.

While we currently still have no known cases in the community, the critical message is to continue with heightened vigilance in the behaviors that are known to reduce or prevent its spread of the virus.