

March 22, 2020

Department of Health and Social Services
4501 Business Park Blvd. Suite, 24, Bldg. L.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Commissioner Crum,

Thank you for the discussion today, March 22, 2020, in which Fairbanks community leaders provided an update about the increased spread of COVID-19 in Fairbanks. As you heard, the greater community of Fairbanks, including the Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Tanana Valley Clinic, and the Interior Community Health Center, request the Governor mandate the closure of non-essential businesses for Interior Alaska including Fairbanks and surrounding villages and issue a strong urgency to Interior residents to stay at home. The entire medical community in the Fairbanks area has been working diligently to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and we all support this request.

The local governments and tribes are working towards heightened communication and urgency to our residents. The mandate from the Governor's office to close non-essential businesses will be an essential step. We are extremely sympathetic to businesses during this time however, studies indicate that if we do not "flatten the curve" the virus will spread exponentially straining Fairbanks' medical and community infrastructure resources and cause unnecessary deaths to Interior residents.

We believe that community acquired COVID-19 transmission is occurring in our region. Controlling the transmission of this outbreak will be critical for the health and wellbeing of Fairbanks and the surrounding rural communities in the Interior of Alaska. These latter individuals are at an even higher risk due to the very-limited resources present to address their medical needs.

Again, we ask the Governor mandate the closure of non-essential businesses. As the virus continues to spread, we should prepare to heighten the mandate to limit the hours of essential services and businesses.

Sincerely,

City of Fairbanks
City of North Pole
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

Tanana Valley Clinic
Interior Community Health Center
Fairbanks Native Association

cc:

Senior Rural Affairs Advisor John Moller

Senator Bishop

Senator Coghill

Senator Kawasaki

Representative Hopkins

Representative LeBon

Representative Prax

Representative Talerico

Representative Thompson

Representative Wool