



City and Borough of Juneau
City & Borough Manager's Office
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DATE: April 12, 2021

TO: Loren Jones, Chair, Assembly Committee of the Whole

FROM: Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager

RE: COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Update

The COVID-19 pandemic is still very much a reality in our community. Mitigation measures such as masking, social distancing, contact tracing, testing on return from travel and when symptomatic, and vaccines have been effective in moderating COVID positivity in the community. The EOC firmly believes this is not the time to eliminate the disaster declaration or existing local legislation related to the pandemic. We expect to see the number of independent travelers increase, community members increase their own travel, and COVID variants make their way into our community. All of these factors increase the overall risk of COVID spread in the community.

However, as the percentage of our population who are fully vaccinated continues to grow, the level of our risk also changes. In response to that changing landscape, the EOC has updated the Risk Metrics used to assess the overall community risk and is recommending changes to the Community Mitigation Strategies. Mitigation measures associated with Level 2 -Moderate, Level 3 -High and Level 4 -Extremely High remain mostly unchanged. Sub levels have been added to Level One – Minimal to adapt measures to vaccination rates in the community. The attached chart outlines the proposed changes.

Proposed revisions to the Community Mitigation Measures have been reviewed by our unified command structure and discussed in concept with State public health officials. Where possible, changes are in line with State and CDC guidance. As with all things pandemic, it is quite possible that guidance will change in the future. If so, the EOC will brief the Assembly and recommend appropriate changes.

The EOC believes the proposed changes will balance community risk with economic activity. It is worth noting that as we proceed into the summer tourism season, the EOC is working on strategies to provide broad screening (asymptomatic testing) to front line workers, individuals working in congregate living settings, and individuals in schools and summer camp settings. A broader level of screening should allow the EOC to quickly see any emerging case trends.

The EOC and our partners will continue to work on vaccinating community members. The State of Alaska has an RFP out to provide vaccination services at the four major airports (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan).

Requested Action:

The EOC requests that the Assembly review the proposed mitigation measures and forward them to the April 26, 2021 Assembly meeting for adoption.

Attachments:

Revised COVID Risk Metrics

Proposed COVID Community Mitigation Strategies (will be provided at the meeting)

Existing COVID related legislation and expiration dates:

- Emergency Ordinance 2020-52: CBJ Risk Mitigation Strategies - expires at 12:01 am 4/24/21
- Emergency Ordinance 2021-07: CBJ Travel Mandate - expires at 12:01 am 5/1/2021
- Res 2922: Assembly Rules of Order (allowing telephonic/webinar meetings) – expires 12:01 am 5/26/21
- Res 2921: CBJ COVID-19 Disaster Declaration) – expires 12:01 am 5/26/21
- Emergency Ordinance 2020-61: CBJ Face Covering Mandate... expires at 12:01 am 6/12/21