

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Iḷisaġvik College Students

**FROM:** Amanda Sialofi, Dean of Students

**DATE:** March 16, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | Update 3.16.2020

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Dear Iḷisaġvik Students:

As of today, March 16, we have **one** confirmed case of coronavirus in Alaska. According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services this is a travel-associated case of coronavirus and not a case of community-acquired infection. In response, Governor Dunleavy announced health mandates last Friday which included limitation to visitation in state facilities, the closure of K-12 schools until March 30, and placing emphasis on social-distancing.

With that larger context in mind, the college's highest priority is to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, while maintaining academic continuity and students' ability to finish out the semester. As of right now, campus will remain open, as will the cafeteria, library, and dorms. Currently, we will continue to operate all classes with no changes. However, as many of you know there are a growing number of colleges and universities moving to online instruction which is an option that might be available to you. Please check and communicate with your instructor(s) if you would like to initiate moving to online/distance delivery.

In the interest of proactively protecting our community, we are taking the following efforts at Iḷisaġvik to help contain the virus:

- All college related travel is suspended until further notice, exceptions to this are determined on a case-by-case for instructions.
- All non-essential college programming, gatherings, and community events are canceled until further notice.
- In agreement with the CDC recommendation, we will ask any employee and student who has traveled out of the country and or out of the state on personal travel, to quarantine for 14 days upon return.

These are extraordinary times, and it is critical that we take steps to support and protect one another. Just as importantly, we need to take steps to protect friends or loved ones who may be in high-risk categories. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly advises the following recommendations:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm.
- Frequent cleaning of doorknobs, light switches, and other commonly touched areas with disinfectant wipes.
- Avoiding contact with people who are ill.
- Stay home from work or school if you are ill.

### **Additional Information**

For additional information about the coronavirus, including signs and symptoms, transmission and risk of exposure, and what to do if you are exhibiting symptoms, please refer to the latest updates from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (<http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>).

We will continue to share as much information, as soon as we can, to keep you updated and apprised of any developments.

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