

Mayor
Clay Koplin

Council Members

Tom Bailer
Cathy Sherman
Jeff Guard
Melina Meyer
Anne Schaefer
David Allison
David Glasen

City Manager
Helen Howarth

City Clerk
Susan Bourgeois

Deputy Clerk
Tina Hammer

Student Council
Summer vacation

Special City Council Meeting
May 27, 2020 @ 12:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms
and via YouTube and Teleconference
Agenda

A. Call to order

B. Roll call

Mayor Clay Koplin, Council members Tom Bailer, Cathy Sherman, Jeff Guard, Melina Meyer, Anne Schaefer, David Allison and David Glasen

C. Approval of agenda..... (voice vote)

D. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and Ex Parte Communications

- conflicts as defined in 3.10.010 https://library.municode.com/ak/cordova/codes/code_of_ordinances should be declared, then Mayor rules on whether member should be recused, Council can overrule
- ex parte should be declared here, the content of the ex parte should be explained when the item comes before Council, ex parte does not recuse a member, it is required that ex parte is declared and explained

E. Communications by and petitions from visitors

1. Guest Speakers

- a. IMT Report, incident: COVID-19..... (page 1)
- 2. Audience Comments regarding agenda items..... (3 minutes per speaker)

F. Correspondence

- 3. 05-23-20 Email from A. Houck..... (page 7)
- 4. 05-24-20 Letter from A. Hansen..... (page 8)

G. New Business

- 5. Resolution 05-20-23..... (voice vote)(page 10)

A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting recommendations of the incident management team medical unit of medical directors confirming implementation of Phases Three and Four of the State “Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan” effective June 1, 2020 within City boundaries so long as the City temporary emergency Covid-19 rules remain in effect and ratifying amendment to Emergency Rule 15 Facial Coverings as in Emergency Order 2020-08

- 6. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response

H. Audience participation

I. Council comments

J. Executive Session

City Council is permitted to enter into an executive session if an explicit motion is made to do so calling out the subject to be discussed and if that subject falls into one of the 4 categories noted below. Therefore, even if specific agenda items are not listed under the Executive Session header on the agenda, any item on the agenda may trigger discussion on that item that is appropriate for or legally requires an executive session. In the event executive session is appropriate or required, Council may make a motion to enter executive session right during debate on that agenda item or could move to do so later in the meeting.

K. Adjournment

Public Call-in number 907-253-6202, each call is placed on hold, then calls will ring through in the order received, please stay on the phone until you’ve been addressed or thanked by the Chair or Council, then hang up, comments limited to 3 minutes

Executive Sessions per Cordova Municipal Code 3.14.030

- **subjects which may be considered are:** (1) matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government; (2) subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person; provided that the person may request a public discussion; (3) matters which by law, municipal charter or code are required to be confidential; (4) matters involving consideration of governmental records that by law are not subject to public disclosure.
- **subjects may not be considered in the executive session except those mentioned in the motion calling for the executive session, unless they are auxiliary to the main question**
- **action may not be taken in an executive session except to give direction to an attorney or labor negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations**

if you have a disability that makes it difficult to attend city-sponsored functions, you may contact 424-6200 for assistance.
full City Council agendas and packets available online at www.cityofcordova.net

CORDOVA COVID-19 WEEKLY SITUATION UPDATE

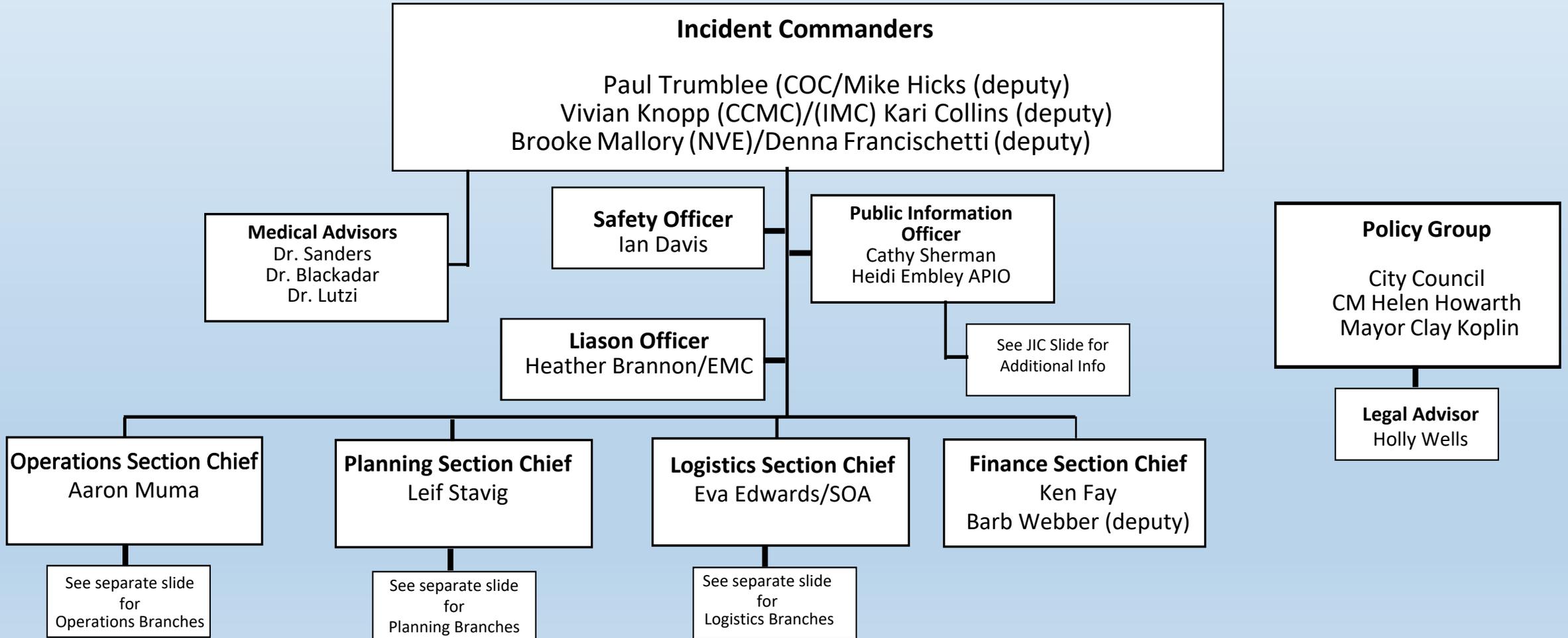
Cordova

Unified Command

25 May 2020

Operational Period #12

CORDOVA COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND



OPERATIONS SECTION ORGANIZATION

Operations Section Chief
Aaron Muma

Information Branch
Jason Gabrielson

Fire/EMS Branch
Mike Hicks

Harbor Branch
Tony Schinella

Law Enforcement Branch
Mike Hicks

Medical Branch
Hannah Sanders

Fire Division
Dana Smyke

Ports of Entry Group
Molly Mulveany

Communications Division
June James

Medical Unit Leader
Vivian Knopp

Mental Health Unit Leader
Barb Jewell

EMS Division
James Thorne

Emergency Communications Group
Cordova Amateur Radio Club
Mark Meredith

Mortuary Unit Leader
James Thorne

PLANNING SECTION ORGANIZATION



LOGISTICS SECTION ORGANIZATION

Logistics Section Chief
Eva Edwards/SOA

Service Branch Director

Food Service Unit Leader
Sandie Ponte

Transportation Unit Leader

Communications Unit Leader
James Thorne

Support Branch Director

Supply Unit Leader
Katherine Mead

Facilities Unit Leader
Malvin Fajardo

Shelter Unit Leader
Micah Renfeldt

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (VIRTUAL)

Cathy Sherman	Lead PIO	Cordova Prepared	COC
Heidi Embley	APIO	Contract PIO	COC
Clay Koplin	Mayor	Radio and Television Media Briefs	COC
J.R. Lewis	Announcer	Local Radio Media	KLAM
Annette Potter	Editor	Cordova Times Newspaper	NVE
Hannah Sanders, MD	Medical Doctor	Physician Consultant	CCMC

Susan Bourgeois

From: Amy O'Neill Houck <aoh@ipsmedia.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 5:19 PM
To: Susan Bourgeois
Subject: Cordova Mask and Social Distancing Mandate

To the City Council,

Thank you for your thoughtful perseverance, and your caring above and beyond the norm work during this perilous time. Through a combination of hard work, level-headed planning, caring, and good luck, Cordova has been spared the terrible consequences of COVID-19, so far.

I write to urge the council to retain our local mandates requiring masks in places where a six-foot social distance isn't possible. Now that the state is leaving that decision up to individuals and business-owners it puts our most vulnerable members of the community at risk. Lower wage employees who serve the public daily are at increased risk of exposure to the virus. If the mask rule goes away, there may be social or employer pressure on them to go unmasked. Elders and immune-compromised folks also suffer when there's no rule, because they need to depend on people's good will. We shouldn't make them have to ask our community to take care of them.

Studies have proven that when everyone in a space is masked it reduces everyone's risk by 95%.

Pandemics are often called communications crises. How we speak to the public about the risks and mitigations can draw our community together to work as a team. Or conversely, if communication is unclear, it confuses and causes rupture. So much is beyond our control. Let's continue to speak with a strong, science-led, honest voice about the measures we CAN control to keep the virus at bay: wearing masks, washing hands, staying six or more feet apart.

Thank you so much.

Amy O'Neill Houck
907-988-8000

May 24, 2020

To Cordovan Citizens, Cordova City Council, and the Incident Management Team,

My name is Aaron Hansen and I was born and raised in Kodiak, Alaska. I first came to Cordova in 2012 to fish and have never left. I love this community and the people who live in it. I understand the anxieties surrounding a potential COVID-19 outbreak in our small town, but I am concerned about how we continue to manage and restrict the community.

I have two young daughters, 2 and 5 years of age. There are certain qualities of life that humans need. Our children need to play with each other. It is important for their mental, emotional, and social development to interact with other children. Being exposed to a variety of germs and bacteria is crucial for strengthening their developing immune systems. I do not think children should continue to be restricted from the parks, pool, library, etc. Cordova's youth are being socially starved and told a variety of fearful narratives to persuade them to stay away from other HUMAN BEINGS, an act with future impacts and consequences that that we have yet to experience and study. Our kids are being denied their basic right to a childhood, while parents are struggling with working from home, with being a teacher, being a support system, a best friend, an entertainer, all while trying to maintain sanity.

We have proven as a community that it is possible to make sacrifices for the safety of our elders, at-risk individuals, medical community, and fellow Cordovan citizens. We did this by quickly abiding by the shelter-in-place order and eliminating social interaction. But our corrective measures should only match the situation at hand instead of being more extreme. I watched the reaction in our community after the letter from Dr. Sanders circulated. It sparked fear deep into our community. (This is being said without blame to Dr. Sanders and with the understanding that it was these extreme reactions that quite possibly prevented an actual outbreak within our small community.) I, myself, went down the rabbit hole of irrational sickening fear. I am healthy and without any underlying issues, yet I was terrified by the things that were being said. Our fears should not be the driving factor of making *rational* decisions. People do not think rationally when they are overcome by fear. We should open our arms and our homes and *live*. We must learn how to *live* with this, for this may be something that may persist for years to come.

I see Cordova's leaders making decisions based on the influx of people coming into our community and the potential of an elevated infection rate. Fisherman and crews are not the ones who suffer from keeping us locked down. They do not care if they cannot use the playgrounds, library, pool, and other places that the local population uses. They will continue to live on their vessels and spend more time on the fishing grounds instead of coming back into town and spending money at local businesses that rely on the influx of said individuals. The Russian fleet has already made sacrifices by not bringing their families with them for the season. The processors have turned their facilities into gated prisons. We have shamed out-of-towners for coming into our normally welcoming community. We must find a sustainable and reasonable solution that does not conflict with our basic human rights. These restrictions are affecting *us* – Cordovans – the ones who have *been here* and will continue to be here. We are the ones who suffer the consequences of a continued lock down. Unlike some of the large, densely populated cities in America that are struggling to contain the outbreaks, we are fortunate to have a small population and space to live and breathe. I wholly believe that we can safely function while following State guidelines and evolve with the state without the micromanagement of every advancement.

I feel very strongly that the mask mandate should be “suggested” and not forced. Untrained citizens, including myself, are not using masks appropriately and safely. Medical professionals warn of the prolonged risks of wearing a mask. I do not throw my mask away or sanitize after every use. I hang it around my neck all day and continually taking it on and off when needed. Most face-coverings are poorly fitted and leave large airgaps for atomized mucus particles to freely escape into the atmosphere. My mask undoubtedly collects particles and bacteria that I force myself to repeatedly breathe, not to mention the continuous circulation of carbon-dioxide. Face masks give us a false sense of security. The CDC states that face coverings and masks will not prevent you from breathing in respiratory droplets containing the virus. Masks do not work like a check valve. If you can breathe it in, you can breathe it out. The CDC conducted a study and reports that 16 layers of handkerchief fabric filtered out 63% of 300 nanometer-sized particles. On a separate report, CDC reported Coronavirus being 50-200 nanometer in diameter and suggests using a 2-layer mask made from high quality quilting fabric with a thread count of 180 or more, which will still only filter 79% of the particles *if* used correctly. In the beginning, the CDC was pushing that asymptomatic people were rapidly spreading the virus unknowingly, but they have changed their statement to asymptomatic people MAY spread the virus and is unlikely to be transmitted in passing or in a brief conversation.

I was under the impression that we were taking these extreme measures to flattening the curve and we did just that. COVID-19 is projected to last for years and it is unlikely that we will be able to prevent eventual contraction of the virus. Our city leaders need to refocus on running the city instead of controlling it. I feel that we should adopt State mandates immediately as they come. It is important to keep everyone on the same page and move with unity. We have proved that we can react quickly, if necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my word and for all the thankless hours and effort every one of you have put into this situation.

With gratitude,

Aaron Hansen

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 05-20-23**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA ADOPTING
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM MEDICAL UNIT OF
MEDICAL DIRECTORS CONFIRMING IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASES THREE AND
FOUR OF THE STATE “REOPEN ALASKA RESPONSIBLY PLAN” EFFECTIVE JUNE 1,
2020 WITHIN CITY BOUNDARIES SO LONG AS THE CITY TEMPORARY EMERGENCY
COVID-19 RULES REMAIN IN EFFECT AND RATIFYING AMENDMENT TO
EMERGENCY RULE 15 FACIAL COVERINGS AS IN EMERGENCY ORDER 2020-08**

WHEREAS, Rule 17 of the Cordova Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Rules requires the Incident Management Team Medical Unit of Medical Directors (“Cordova Medical Team”) to review any revision or repeal of State Public Health Mandates before the repeal or revision of a State of Alaska health mandate becomes effective within the City; and

WHEREAS, Rule 17 also requires the Cordova Medical Team to submit its recommendations regarding repeals and revisions to State Mandates to City Council so Council has the opportunity to delay the effective date of any repeal or revision to State Mandate within the City if doing so is necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Cordova Medical Team recommended that the City implement “Phases 3 and 4” of the State Plan effective June 1, 2020 so long as the City COVID-19 Temporary Emergency Rules remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, with the opening of a variety of business types in Cordova, the facial coverings rule requires an amendment for ease of compliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Cordova, Alaska, hereby:

Section 1. Adopts the recommendations of the Cordova Medical Team as identified in the Cordova Medical Team recommendation letter attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A.

Section 2. Ratifies Emergency Order 2020-08 attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B amending Rule 15 Facial Coverings.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF MAY 2020.

Clay R. Koplín, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

Exhibit A

May 25, 2020

Dear Council Members:

At this point, the metrics to evaluate reopening (health care capacity and epidemiologic data) suggest we are ready to align with the state. The medical team is concerned this reopening will be interpreted as relaxing of basic guidance.

We must also remember that due to Alaska's early quarantine for out of state visitors we have not been exposed to the virus at the rate of the lower 48. Now with the arrival of hundreds of out of state processors, fishermen and returning residents our risk is as high as ever. As the state and community reopen we must exercise continued vigilance in our efforts to mitigate the risk of virus spread. To put it simply: Wearing masks in combination with frequent hand washing and social distancing works to help reduce the spread of the virus.

- Masks are much safer than no mask.
- Outdoors are safer than indoors.
- Less people are safer than more people.
- The more time you spend in close proximity to others outside of your household, the more likely you are to become infected or infect others.

Our local processors and industry partners have put extensive time and investment into plans to protect their operations and our community. They have done this largely without mandates regulating how they respond. I believe we owe each other the same level of protection. Businesses have the right to require hand hygiene, masks, and only allow small numbers of patrons, or curbside service. Regardless if it is a mandate, a business requirement, or individual decisions, the medical community encourages everyone to help protect Cordova.

My personal opinion is that we can trust businesses and individuals to do the right thing and allow individuals to make their own decisions regarding safe reopening. If there are questions or a business would like guidance, the medical team is here to provide advice and support.

To this point, our response and each Cordovan's sacrifice has protected our community. Let's not let that go to waste.

Sincerely,
Hannah Sanders, MD

May 26, 2020

Re: Cordova's Medical Unit Medical Directors Recommendations to Council Regarding Phases 3 and 4 of the State of Alaska Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan

Dear Council Members,

Upon careful review of the State of Alaska Public Health Mandates and "Reopen Alaska Plan, Phases 3 and 4," Cordova's Medical Unit Medical Directors ("Cordova Medical Team"), as organized in accordance with the Cordova Emergency Operations Plan, Annex L, recommend the following actions by the Cordova Emergency Operations Unified Command and the Cordova City Council:

1. Implement Phases 3 and 4 of the State of Alaska Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan ("State Plan") effective June 1, 2020 so long as the City continues to impose the Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Rules.

State Plan Metric Analysis

The Cordova Medical Team understands the need to lift business operation and social distancing restrictions as quickly as reasonable, it is also obligated to recommend restrictions that protect and preserve public health and safety. In making its determination, the Cordova Medical Team applied the State Plan metric analysis, which weighs 1) Epidemiology; 2) Testing; 3) Public health capacity; and 4) Healthcare capacity in determining the social distancing and business operation restrictions necessary within the City to protect the Cordova community and its visitors.

1. Epidemiology

In weighing this factor, the Cordova Medical Team considers COVID-19 disease trends and trend forecasting. Currently, it appears COVID-19 cases within the State of Alaska are declining. However, the City of Cordova ("City") has recorded its first COVID-19 case and its nearby City of Valdez recently recorded its first COVID-19 positive case. Further, the influx of summer workers and the arrival of the fishing fleet requires the City to carefully monitor for COVID-19 transmission within Cordova to determine anticipated trends specific to Cordova.

2. Testing

Cordova's ability and capacity to screen and test widely continues to increase. Both CCMC and Ilanka Clinic are providing free COVID-19 testing to "essential workers" and those arriving to Cordova from out-of-state who have not completed a 14-day quarantine. Symptomatic contacts can get immediate testing with rapid results. That said, the Cordova Medical Team is working diligently to determine the capacity of testing and the need for testing in light of the recent influx of summer workers.

In light of the newly increased testing capacity, the Cordova Medical Team continues to develop methods and internal protocols for monitoring overall testing volume and changes in the percentage of positive tests at the community, regional, and statewide levels. Ensuring fast turnaround of tests and reporting of results.

3. *Public health capacity*

The Cordova Medical Team has only one case for which monitoring and contact investigations has been required. The Team has found that individual businesses are working diligently to protect their employees and follow their own protocols and protective measures. Although the Cordova Medical Team is monitoring cases and conducting necessary contact investigations for positive cases, the independent efforts of business owners operating in Cordova warrants transitioning to open business operations with minimal restrictions so long as the State of Alaska advisory documents and mandates continue to be followed.

4. *Healthcare capacity*

The Cordova Medical Team is prepared to treat and respond to multiple cases of COVID-19 within the City but also recognizes that the Cordova Community Medical Center hospital facilities do not have the type of facilities necessary to treat severe cases of COVID-19. To protect hospital staff, patients, and the greater Cordova community, COVID-19 patients will be transported to Anchorage or other communities that have the facilities, staff and equipment to care for those requiring intensive care. The State of Alaska has indicated that it will provide medical transportation out of Cordova which decreases our risk. The Cordova Medical Team estimates it has sufficient PPE for all healthcare workers and first responders but continues to focus on building up Cordova's reserves. The City also continues to have sufficient shelter capacity.

Recommendations

After Cordova's first COVID-19 positive case, the City has not yet had another, which suggests social distancing and business operation restrictions are effective. Consequently, the Cordova Medical Team is growing more confident in Cordova's ability to respond to an increase in COVID-19 cases in the upcoming weeks and months. The City's preparedness to respond to COVID-19 justifies lifting restrictions as recommended above but does not yet warrant repealing the City's COVID-19 Emergency Rules, which include a facial covering requirement and certain local agreements and notifications regarding sanitation and protection measures adopted by individual businesses operating within Cordova. Instead, the metric analysis supports the Cordova Medical Team's recommendation that a transition to "Phases 3 and 4" of the State Plan take effect June 1, 2020, unless the spread of COVID-19 within the City requires otherwise.

Conclusion

For all of the reasons stated above, the Cordova Medical Team respectfully requests Council adopt the recommendations included above. The undersigned will be available to answer Council's questions and address its concerns at the Council meeting addressing the recommendations in this letter.

Sincerely,



Hannah Sander, MD

EMERGENCY ORDER 2020-08

AN EMERGENCY ORDER REVISING CORDOVA EMERGENCY COVID-19 RULE 15 ENTITLED “FACIAL COVERINGS” TO PERMIT FACIAL COVERINGS TO BE REMOVED IN ORDER TO EAT, DRINK OR RECEIVE SERVICES PERMITTED UNDER STATE OF ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE

WHEREAS, the City Incident Management Team has examined the State of Alaska Phases 3 and 4 of the “Reopen Alaska Responsibly” Plan implemented by Governor Dunleavy (the “State Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Incident Management Team Medical Unit of Medical Directors (“Cordova Medical Team”) does not object to the implementation of State Plan Phases 3 and 4 but reiterated the effectiveness of facial coverings in reducing transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Phases 3 and 4 of the State Plan permits individuals to engage in activities such as eating and drinking socially or receiving aesthetic services that cannot be easily undertaken while wearing a facial covering,

Section 1. Amendment to COVID-19 Emergency Rule 15. City Manager Helen Howarth, in collaboration with Mayor Clay Koplín and Cordova’s Emergency Operations Center, hereby amends the City’s Emergency COVID-19 Rules as follows (new language highlighted and bolded):

Rule 15. Facial Coverings. Except as otherwise provided in this rule, a All individuals in Cordova must wear a mask, bandanna or other type of cloth protective covering over their nose and mouth when ~~entering a building open to the public, in the harbor on docks and ramps, when pumping gas or using gas station amenities, and in any other settings where social distancing~~ **from another individual** of at least six feet is not possible. Individuals under the age of four, individuals with trouble breathing, and individuals with a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a facial covering are exempt from this rule. **Facial coverings need not be worn in the following circumstances:**

- 1. An individual is alone or within six feet of only members of his or her household**
- 2. An individual is eating or drinking in compliance with State of Alaska public health mandates**
- 3. An individual is receiving lawful services that cannot be adequately performed while the service provider or the recipient is wearing a mask.**

~~All individuals alone in a space requiring facial coverings under this rule are not required to wear a covering unless and until another person outside that person’s household arrives at their location.~~

Exhibit B to Resolution 05-20-23

Section 2. All the Emergency COVID-19 Rules shall remain in effect until repealed by City Council or the City Manager. In the event the declared state of emergency is repealed, the rules will automatically terminate on the effective date of that repeal.

Section 3. This Emergency Order 2020-08 and the revisions to Rule 15 adopted within it shall be effective at 8:00am on June 1, 2020. This Order shall be posted on the City website and the City Clerk shall provide City Council members notice of this Emergency Order 2020-08 and the revisions to the COVID-19 Emergency Rules within five (5) days of their adoption.

Date

Helen Howarth
City Manager