

Introduced by: Mayor Michelle DeWitt

Date: October 27, 2020

Action: Passed

Vote: 6-0

# CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

## Resolution 20-18

### **A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL ASKING THE RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND VISITORS OF BETHEL TO TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

- WHEREAS,** on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to an anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 in Alaska, and that emergency remains ongoing; drastic
- WHEREAS,** on March 25, 2020, the Bethel City Council adopted Ordinance #20-09, finding the existence of a public health emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak, incorporating by reference the declaration of local disaster emergency issued by the Acting City Manager and Mayor on March 24, 2020; seeking state and federal funding assistance; and issuing certain health advisories, and requests consistent with state and federal law; these emergency declarations were extended on May 26, 2020, through Ordinance #20-11, and through Ordinance #20-29 September 8, 2020;
- WHEREAS,** the increase in COVID-19 cases in our community presents a health and safety concern and therefore the Bethel City Council asks all persons in Bethel, except for those engaging in "Alaska Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure" as defined in State of Alaska Health Mandate 11 and those engaging in "Critical personal Needs" as defined in State of Alaska Health Mandate 18, to remain in their place of residence and practice strict physical distancing;
- WHEREAS,** the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta is a vast community with friends and family spread over the Region;
- WHEREAS,** our Region has seen a terrifying spike in COVID-19 cases over the last few days with a total number of 155 active cases and four deaths in the Region, as of October 20, 2020 proving, we are not all doing our part to protect our loved ones, our critical infrastructure or our communities, we have to do better;

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**WHEREAS,** because the State of Alaska is not going to take measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities or Region, we have to protect each other, if we are going to make a difference we all have to make a change, we have to all make a change together;

**WHEREAS,** immediate action is required before more lives are harmed by and more lives are lost to COVID-19, we must all as individuals, as businesses and as organizations, do everything we can to protect our Region from seeing increased devastation;

**WHEREAS,** the Bethel City Council and Administration understand the importance of economic stability, and in exchange for the request to have Bethel storefronts to close their doors to the public, the City will work through CARES Act funding perimeters, to incentivize and compensate those business for loss of revenue due to the closure;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, as follows:

The City Council asks all people in Bethel to:

1. Immediately isolate any family member who is showing the following symptoms:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  
2. Stop participating in public or private indoor and outdoor gatherings that include non-household members, regardless of the number of people

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involved.

Bethel businesses and organizations are asked to:

1. Allow for and encourage employees to work from home whenever possible.
2. Close or reduce public access to their facility whenever possible.
3. Adopt methods of interacting with the public that encourage distancing, including replacing in-person interactions with telephonic, videoconference or other electronic/remote contracts whenever possible.
4. Strictly abide by and enforce at their place of operation the Bethel City Council's Mandates:
  - Ord. 20-26: Testing and Quarantine Mandate following travel
  - Ord 20-27: Mask Mandate
5. Ensure physical distancing measures are taken to prevent employees and patrons from being within six feet of another individual for more than 15 minutes.

Surrounding communities and visitors are asked to:

1. Limit travel into Bethel for Critical Personal Needs and Essential Services/Critical Infrastructure as defined in Alaska Health Mandate 18.
2. When in Bethel isolate and prevent interaction with residents.

**ENACTED THIS 27TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**



Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk