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March 20, 2020

Attn: Community of Emmonak

Dear Community members of Emmonak,

As well all know, COVID-19 is widespread, with 12 cases being confirmed in Alaska. In efforts to prepare our community, our community leaders had a teleconference on March 18, 2020 at 3:00 pm. This included Emmonak Sub-Regional Clinic, Emmonak School, Emmonak Women's Shelter, City of Emmonak, Emmonak Courthouse, AC, Emmonak Tribal Council, and the Emmonak Corporation. Since our meeting I have also reached out to Chuloonawick, Grant Aviation, Ravn Connect, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Assembly of God.

Updates from each organization are as follows:

#### **Emmonak School**

LYSD is following state recommendations. School is closed, teachers and staff are cleaning and sanitizing the school, lunches to-go are being provided to students daily. Principal is attending daily teleconferences being held district-wide to receive updates. Active efforts to ensure staff are kept safe and prepared.

#### **Emmonak Women's Shelter**

Following suit with other shelter's in Alaska, the EWS is not taking clients until there is a dire emergency, wiping down, educating clients, making sure staff know the procedures necessary to prepare.

#### **Emmonak Tribal Council/AVCP**

Members are asked to call in first before coming into the office to eliminate small gatherings of people. Staff are asked to wipe down surfaces daily. Bingo and Pull-tabs have closed until further notice.

#### **City of Emmonak**

Stopped bingo and pull tabs until further notice. Public notices, preparing a proclamation to declare this a disaster with over 40 homes in the community that do not have water and sewer to clean and disinfect homes. No gatherings will take place in Complex until further notice.

#### **Emmonak Sub-Regional Clinic**

There are two isolation rooms at clinic, if you are sick with cough and fever if you have traveled in or out of the region, and call clinic to ask to speak to the midlevel providers, the midlevel providers will make a determination to see if you need to be seen at the clinic, they will ask you to wash your hands, use a mask, come in through the side door to be seen. There are testing capabilities here at our clinic (results will take time, this is a test where the specimen has to be

sent out). Vast majority of people will do just fine. What is very important is to have a plan in place and not panic. It is going to happen, we are going to see it. A majority of people recover and do fine. There is a vaccine being tested.

Those that are on chronic meds are strongly encouraged to call the YKHC pharmacy in Bethel to order their 90-day supply of medication. Efforts to increase medical supplies and medication on hand have been made.

#### **Emmonak Corporation**

Tank farm operations and the store remain open. (this was the update during the teleconference on 3/18, the Tank Farm has since closed until further notice due a break in on 3/19) Marvin Kelly also reported on behalf of the Ryan Air/Everetts/Ravn that efforts are being made to ensure surfaces and practices are being put in place in the office to eliminate sharing pens, etc.

#### **Alaska Court System**

Following Guidelines, not more than 10 people in room, 6 feet distance, all hearings are telephonic, special conditions and orders for the State posted on Walls and Doors of entrance of Courthouse.

#### **Alaska Commercial Co.**

Starting 3/20 AC will be offering one lane for two hours for elders and those in our community with deficient immune systems. This lane will be cleaned and sanitized extra hard and then regularly throughout the morning. Lane #3 will have signage directing all of our other customers away from using it. We will also open the doors for elders one hour early on Tuesdays and Fridays each week going forward.

Asked that the message be passed on to community members that if you purchase only what you need, there will be a lower risk of running out of essential items for everyone in this community. The quantity of high need items have been increased to prepare for this time, but everyone is still encouraged to purchase only what you need.

#### **Grant Aviation**

Grant is now screening pilots that come in from out of state. Screening passengers as well and are getting an Infrared thermometer. Passengers with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be denied travel and referred to the local clinic. Cleaning terminals and planes on a regular basis.

#### **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**

All church services have been suspended (including funerals, weddings and church services) on April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Bishop will be notifying the Parishes about what the plan is for Holy Week services. Updates for the church have been shared also on Facebook. The priest is available for confessions and anointing of the sick by individual appointments.

#### **Assembly of God**

Following guidelines of 10 people or less. Need 6 foot distance, following State's recommendations. Still working out what will happen for the Sunday service Kids church has been cancelled until further notice. Looking at other options for Sunday service. There have been at least 10 or less people on Wednesday night service.

#### **United States Postal Service**

Sanitizing office space, using hand sanitizers at all times. No plans at this time to close the post office.

**Ravn Connect**

Called St. Marys station, they referred us to the [www.flyravn.com](http://www.flyravn.com) website. They are doing verbal screenings to passengers and also cleaning planes meeting the CDC recommendations. Waiving all change and cancellation fees, normal operations on flights at this time. Updates will be made on their website.

We want you to know what we are doing at the community level. We are actively preparing for the COVID-19 virus in Emmonak and strongly encourage you to discuss what your plan is for your family. This is to include a discussion as to how you will care for your family member who has contracted the virus. If you or your family member has traveled outside of Emmonak, it is suggested that you self-quarantine for 14 days in order to protect other family and community members, especially our Elders. You may find more information at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), this has really good information for everything regarding COVID-19. Be careful with false information you might find on Facebook or other websites.

This group has made a decision to meet again on Wednesday March 25, 2020 at 3pm. We will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 in the State and will share any pertinent information to the public at the local level.

Thank you for your time and efforts you are making to ensure a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,



Roberta G. Charles, Tribal Council President/Acting Administrator