

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of Emergency Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Hibbert, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Tyson Cox, Assembly Member TC

FROM: Dan Nelson, Senior Manager – OEM DN

DATE: February 18, 2021

RE: Resolution 2021-019, Extending the Disaster Emergency Declaration for the Kenai Peninsula Borough Issued Due to the Current and Expected Imminent Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic to June 30, 2021 (Cox)

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to impact the borough, especially as vaccines became available within the Borough and the logistical needs that accompany its efficient distribution. The borough Office of Emergency Management ("OEM") continues to incur significant expenses for planning, coordination, vaccination distribution and coordinating a variety of efforts responding to the pandemic.

Most recently the OEM has devoted significant efforts towards planning and coordinating vaccination acquisition, training, storage, distribution, and the administration of shots. These activities have required additional temporary personnel and other expenses to be incurred. As the remaining CARES funding is spent, the borough may transition to FEMA reimbursement of expenses or any other funding streams that may become available for all of these expenses related to the response.

A pre-requisite for FEMA public assistance is a local disaster declaration being in effect when claimed costs are incurred. Because of the high costs still being incurred due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this extension of the disaster declaration for an additional three months is to ensure that all avenues of reimbursement and assistance are available to the borough, reducing the burden on local taxpayers.

Your consideration is appreciated.