



Office of the Borough Mayor

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Charlie Pierce
Borough Mayor

DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

March 16, 2020

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus known as COVID-19 was first discovered in China and since that time has spread to many countries throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, reducing the high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 is critical to older adults and individuals who have serious chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the first coronavirus patient in Alaska was diagnosed in Anchorage on March 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that employers and others implement policies such as remote work and cancellation of mass gatherings to increase the physical distance between individuals to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms for a period of two to fourteen days; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a mandate that public school days between March 16 and March 30, 2020 be non-student contact days in which students will not be attending school and all after school activities will be suspended; and

WHEREAS, many public and private facilities, gatherings, and other events have been cancelled or postponed in order to prevent the rapid transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these events have a significant impact on business, commerce, and the local economy now and potentially in the future as there is no projected date for a potential vaccine or other treatment for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is working with the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and other agencies under unified command; and


WHEREAS, Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency on March 11, 2020 and the President of the United States issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough expects that the continued impact of COVID-19 will be of a severity and magnitude that is beyond the authority and capacity of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, a second class borough of the State of Alaska, to provide effective response;


NOW THEREFORE, I declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in areas throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough outside of the cities due to the current and expected imminent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such I have activated the emergency response plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in order to address the ongoing response.

FURTHERMORE, the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska provide disaster assistance to the Kenai Peninsula Borough by making available resources as needed in the ongoing response and recovery from the current and potential impacts from this pandemic, to provide individual assistance for affected businesses and individuals, and to provide technical expertise and guidance, to help the borough in its response and recovery from this event.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.


Charlie Pierce
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


Johni Blankenship
Borough Clerk

