

TO THE DILLINGHAM COMMUNITY

The Dillingham City School District, and the City of Dillingham, would like to share a message with our Dillingham residents and neighbors in our region. Like you, we are deeply concerned about the cluster of seven Dillingham positive Covid-19 cases disclosed to the public on February 3, 2021. Three new cases were identified today and it is possible that additional cases may eventually be identified. We plan to keep you updated in the future.

In the spirit of partnership, our organizations are working diligently to respond to this situation. Unfortunately, these cases dramatically show how Covid-19 may be carried throughout our community. Clearly, it broadly impacted our schools, businesses, community organizations, tribal and city governments, and daily lives. This event caused closure of the public schools on February 4, depriving about 450 students of classroom education. Additionally, hundreds of families were impacted. Many businesses and organizations now have employees that cannot report to work. The Senior Center was closed. Public access to the Library was temporarily ended. The value of lost classroom time for our students, lost worktime, and the burden to citizens, is immeasurable.

The School District and BBAHC have arranged a comprehensive testing event on Sunday for all students and their families. While this will be provided at no cost, the actual cost is substantial: thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of staff-time.

This event, while not done on purpose, still had harmful consequences that could have been avoided. During these pandemic times, it is necessary to underscore the importance of Covid-safety. While there are no guarantees, the more we each practice safety precautions, the better our chance of preventing more broad-scale events like this one. Together, we can increase the likelihood of keeping our schools open, and our other valuable services operating, if we each: (i) observe the City of Dillingham Covid-Emergency Orders for quarantine when traveling into Dillingham, (ii) do regular testing, (iii) wear masks outside of our homes, (iv) respect six-foot physical-distancing, (v) wash hands thoroughly and frequently, and (vi) follow our employers' and all businesses' Covid protocols.

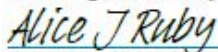
In June 2020, the City of Seward suffered a mass Covid-infection event. Seward has roughly the same number of people as Dillingham. Yet, in one day, their cases doubled - from 10 to 20. We don't want something similar to happen here. Please contact the Dillingham Health Center at 842-5981 with your health-related questions. Please contact the City EOC office with any Emergency Order, quarantine and travel related questions, at 842-2321, or via email at eoc@dillinghamak.us.

We all love our community and are in this together. Please do not relax your efforts now. We depend on each other to do our part to protect our daughters and sons, grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, brother and sisters, work-mates, and our friends. Let's take good care of our community!

Thank you – Quyana!



Dr. Jason R. Johnson, Superintendent
Dillingham City School District



Alice J Ruby (Feb 5, 2021 17:32 AKST)

Alice Ruby, Mayor
City of Dillingham



Thomas Tilden (Feb 5, 2021 17:36 AKST)

Thomas Tilden, First Chief
Curyung Tribal Council



Gina Carpenter (Feb 5, 2021 18:47 AKST)

Gina Carpenter, Dillingham Public Health Nurse
State of Alaska, Dept. of Health and Soc. Services

February 5, 2021