

**Mayor**  
Alice Ruby

**Manager**  
Tod Larson



**Dillingham City Council**  
Chris Napoli  
Bill Rodawalt  
Kaleb Westfall  
Curt Armstrong  
Andy Anderson  
Gregg Marxmiller

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 7, 2020  
**To:** City Council  
**From:** Tod Larson, City Manager  
**Subject:** Coronavirus Update

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### City Operations.

- 5/7 – Conducted two separate construction related calls.
  - JJC workers in quarantine now.
  - Looking at 5/18 to begin work.
  - All materials for water and road projects on this first barge.
  - 6/1 – projected start on asbestos remediation in Dillingham hotel.
  - 6/10 – projected start of demolition of Dillingham hotel.
- 5/7 - Alaska Airlines is got permission to enter Ravn Terminal.
- 5/7 - City Attorney's spent two days incorporating community and council comments into new separate ordinances for review.
- 5/7 - First barge arrived.
- 5/7 - Held the Dillingham Coronavirus Task Force meeting on 5/1.
- 5/7 - Ordered materials to improve the harbor area for this year. Signage, porta-potties, handwash facilities, hand sanitizers, etc.
- 5/7 - Ordered tentage, cots, sleeping bags – estimated arrival next week.
- 5/7 - Awaiting response from Ben Stevens/Adam Crum regarding the security assessment team.
- 5/1 - We have a partial order of PPE for our first responders on its way from the State.
- 4/30 - Seems like things have calmed down around the airport and most are getting used to the permit system. The Chief is still having his officers spot check the airport as their time and mission allow.
- 4/30 - Made contact with the Coast Guard – still awaiting a return call though.

## Medical.

### Health Update

- 5/7 - State of Alaska has 372 cases, 284 recovered, 38 hospitalized, 10 Deaths.
- 5/7 – Conference call with State Public Health, State EOC, and FEMA Region 10 personnel.
  - State is developing a system to come to Dillingham to COVID test large numbers in the harbor with a tent location, nurses, supplies.
  - State EOC manager resurrected our tentage/cot/sleeping bag request.
  - FEMA Region 10 took back our request for modeling and will work on it.
  - Working on a site location.
  - State will get back to me with throughput.
  - Wood River Icicle has testing themselves. Public Health will verify.
- 5/7 – Cordova first positive test in Ocean Beauty Seafoods.
- 5/7 - Awaiting a Health Mandate for set netters and one for Sport Fishing.
- 5/7 - Processor plans reviewed by Task Force and Council. Comments consolidated and sent to processors.

### BBAHC

- 5/7 – Supplying data to the State for modeling.
- 5/7 - Grandma's house is estimated to be ready as early as Friday 5/8.
- 4/30 - BBAHC has signed a lease with the MEAL board to lease Grandmas House for use as overflow capacity for the hospital. A contractor has been selected to repair the sprinkler system and will be working on the system soon.
- 4/30 - BBAHC submitted a letter to the Governor requesting that the fishing season be shut down. I haven't heard of any comments after they submitted it.
- 4/30 - Samaritan's Purse notified the hospital that they have a 25-bed modular hospital complete with Docs and Nurses available for deployment when they need it.
- 4/19 - Supplies are slowly trickling in to the hospital.

## Critical Community Services.

- 4/30 - The roads have been causing Public Works trouble with all the snow and moisture in the ground. They are working on the roads up by Nerka this week.
- 4/30 – Road crew working on Bayside Drive.
- 4/19 - Our critical service workers have been working very hard to keep services up.
- 4/19 - Public Works has taken steps to maintain social distancing, personal protection measures.

- 4/19 - Water and Wastewater – these two guys have taken many measures to make certain that they do everything they can to protect themselves. They know how critical they are to Dillingham.
- 4/19 - The Public Safety Department is holding their own right now.
- 4/19 - Although the Senior Center is closed, Ida and her new cook are still cooking and delivering meals to their normal meals on wheels as well as those that typically eat at the Senior Center.
- 4/19 - So far, we have been able to keep landfill operations going. They are shorthanded but still doing their best to keep their operations going.

### **Communication from Neighboring Communities.**

- 4/19 - Joined Bristol Bay Borough and Lake and Pen Borough in two separate calls to the Governor's Chief of Staff – Ben Stevens.

### **Coronavirus Task Force.**

- 5/7 – Large amount of test coming to the State (170,000+). ETA unknown at this time.
- 5/7 – Superintendents' planning graduations in COVID environment.
- 5/7 – Superintendents' beginning initial planning for next year.
- 5/7 – Nushagak working on microwave system upgrades and generator rebuild.
- 5/7 – TF stressing testing completed prior to arrival.
- 5/7 – Needed estimate for typical influx into communities for planning. Dillingham – 4,500, Naknek – 10,000.

### **Commercial Fishing.**

- 4/19 - BBRSDA and other fishing related personnel coming to Dillingham are being discouraged from coming early and have requested that crews only conduct critical maintenance on their vessel, otherwise wait until next year if you can.
- 4/30 - All processor plans are in the hands of the City Council, Department Heads, and the Dillingham Coronavirus Task Force members for comment.
- 4/30 - A few advanced processor workers have arrived to begin the setup of the plants.
- 4/30 - Council will be considering the updated Emergency Ordinance and our rules on 4/30. Once approved, we will distribute as widely as possible. Our focus is requiring a minimum of two COVID tests, a 14-day quarantine, and tightly enforced Fisheries Related Use Districts from the day of arrival until completing the season.

### **State Mandates.**

- 4/30 - Health Mandate 16 – Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan Phase I-A.
  - The first in a series to reopen the Alaskan economy.

- The Mandate has a number of attachments for a wide variety of business types.
- Stresses opening business in a safe way. Social distancing, limiting capacity, spread things out, etc.
- 4/30 - Health Mandate 17 – Protective Measures for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels.
  - Establishes rules for vessels and Captains operating on Alaskan waters and in Alaska Ports and Harbors.
  - Directed at Independent Commercial Vessels only.
  - Includes some documentation requirements.
  - Does not require testing – which is a basic requirement of ours.
  - Acknowledges a 14-day quarantine requirement.
  - Also acknowledges the City’s right to enact additional protective measures.
  - Establishes a flagging system that lets everyone know the quarantine status of the vessel.
  - Establishes a verbal and physical screening requirement.
  - Establishes a number of requirements regarding crew, social distancing, illnesses, etc.

## **Economic.**

- 5/7 – Testified Wednesday morning to the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee. Topic was how COVID preparations and operations impact the local municipalities. (CARES Act Funding Focus)
  - AML coordinated a few municipalities to talk impacts after his briefing.
  - Looking at CARES fund distribution model.
  - Explained the stress created on all systems during fishing season and the influx of fishing related operations.
  - Stressed the challenges we face not only with monies, but the health challenge as well.
  - Other municipalities across Alaska seem to be similarly situated.
- 4/30 - Briefed the Finance and Budget Committee on 4/27 on what we know about the CARES Act.
  - \$1.25B for the State of Alaska.
  - The Governor divided up the funding with a formula that we believe is similar to the CAP formula.
  - Funds are anticipated to be available on 5/1/2020.
  - Must be spent by 12/30/2020 or returned to the US Treasury.
  - Not much out on the procedures and a listing of allowable expenditures.
  - The legislature is conducted committee meetings Thursday and Friday. There is some question if the Governor can divide up the money or is that reserved for the legislature to decide.
  - CARES Act monies cannot be used to replace lost revenue. Must be an expense related to the COVID pandemic.
  - AML recommended not to commit any funds until we get a better idea about the rules (hadn’t planned on it!).

- Some uncomfortable unanswered questions regarding the vetoes that the Governor made and said the monies would be replaced with CARES Act funding. I know right now that we cannot use CARES money to replace School Bond Debt Funding.
- Reviewed the Treasury Department Guidance for CARES Act funding. Pretty general of course...just emphasized the prohibition to use the funding as revenue replacement and that the expenditure had to be directly related to costs from our COVID response.
- 4/30 - The information is located on the City's website on the left side of the main page and it is titled "COVID-19 Financial Assistance":  
[https://www.dillinghamak.us/index.asp?SEC=A931F069-CC77-4C51-8385-DAB47FF5C9EC&Type=B\\_BASIC](https://www.dillinghamak.us/index.asp?SEC=A931F069-CC77-4C51-8385-DAB47FF5C9EC&Type=B_BASIC)

### **Alaska Municipal League/Alaska Municipal Management Association.**

- 4/30 - Participated on an AML Conference Call regarding the CARES Act.
- 4/30 - I had a second conference call with AMMA regarding Mandate 16 strategies across the State.

### **State of Alaska.**

- 4/30 - Mayor Ruby and I participated in two calls with the Governor's Chief of Staff since my past briefing last week.
  - 4/24/2020
    - This call was really the first one to establish a clear line of communication with Bristol Bay community leaders.
    - COD, Bristol Bay Borough, Lake and Pen Borough, Bryce Edgmon, Commissioner Crum (DHSS), Ben Stevens.
    - Developed the idea to have a coordinated radio show on Thursday 4/30 from 10:00-12:00. Consistent Bristol Bay message.
    - Talked some about security and enforcement challenges.
    - Developed that the EOCs are the main contact for the State. We will route through our EOC.
  - 4/29/2020
    - Discussed Health Mandate 17 and developed a timeline for questions.
    - Stressed again the need for State Government to go through the City/Boroughs and not so much direct industry contact around us.
    - Pushed hard to get testing included as a requirement as Mandate 17 still does not have testing as a requirement. Test prior to arrival in Dillingham and after quarantine prior to releasing from quarantine.
- 4/30 - Potential for some State assistance in putting together our security force. They spoke about sending in an assessment team to determine needs and contract with an Anchorage security company to fulfill.

### **Industry/Community Meetings.**

- 5/7 – State received 2,300 plans to review and are working through the stack now, priority to large and earlier operations.
- 5/7 – Temporary hold on distribution of plans – legal challenge.
- 5/7 – Dillingham is testing symptomatic. 40 tests so far.
- 5/7 – Icicle weekly call.
  - Explained their phased entry to Dillingham.
    - Pre-travel testing (must have negative test to travel).
    - Outside Dillingham quarantine
    - Travel.
    - 14-day quarantine at Dillingham plant.
- 5/7 – Norm Van Vactor using drone to provide enhanced images for the State (and others) to understand our boat yard congestion better.
- 4/19 - Shared much of the information gained from other groups with this BB COVID & Fishery Update.
- 4/19 - Emphasized the need to write the Governor’s Office and State Legislators.
- 4/19 - We want more stringent measures in Bristol Bay.
- 4/30 – Community mental health - one of the things that I read really just said to stop watching the non-stop coverage on TV, walk away from the negativity that Facebook seems to be generating, and get outside now.

## Road Ahead.

- 5/7 – Keep pressure on the Governor’s Office to come through with security assistance.
- 5/7 – Expecting a number of mandates from the State next week.
- 5/7 – Expecting a decision on CARES Act funding distribution.
- 4/30 - Regular City Council Meeting 5/7/2020.
- 4/30 - Publish new Emergency Ordinance and make wide distribution.
- 4/30 - Finalize the additional rules for the Fisheries Related Use Districts for the summer and widely distribute as well.
- 4/30 - Complete processor plan review and submit comments.
- 4/30 - Develop the plan for ill and wayward personnel.
- 4/30 - Update the travel permit to include water side in addition to air requirements.
- 4/30 - Develop the CARES Act rules as they apply to Dillingham.
- 4/30 - Continue to refine the FY20 budget revision and the FY21 budget.
- 4/30 - Develop the security strategy and initiate action.

**Summary.** We are seeing more movement on critical issues regarding our COVID preparation and response. Disappointed that we haven’t heard anything about the security assessment team from the State yet – Bristol Bay Borough sent a message to the Governor’s Chief of Staff requesting status on Wednesday. Good news on the State and COVID testing operation being planned here. I’ll have more information in the near future.