



MAYORS REQUEST THORNE BAY ALASKA

Date: March 23, 2020

For Immediate Release

Under State of Emergency to Thorne Bay City asks that people Hunker Down and Shelter in Place

Because the COVID-19 virus is so highly contagious, it has already spread rapidly in Ketchikan with 6-confirmed COVID-19 cases. Thorne Bay needs to be aggressive in preventing the COVID-19 Virus reaching our community.

Due to the exponential spread of the COVID-19 virus in Ketchikan, and in other cases throughout the country, the Mayor of Thorne Bay is strongly urging the citizens of Thorne Bay to **hunker down, shelter in place, and stay home**, in order to contain the spread of COVID-19. Prince of Wales currently has no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

In keeping with the mandates issued by Governor Dunleavy on March 21, 2020, we remind our citizens to practice social distancing and that **no gatherings of more than 10 people may take place**, and if a gathering does take place people must be 6 feet apart from each other. Owners of businesses which are non-essential, to the extent possible, are urged to close for a period of at least 14 days.

We want to assure the public that vital services such as emergency, fire, police, and grocery stores will remain fully functioning and open and available.

Residents who are healthy and do not believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 may shop at grocery stores but are asked to do without lingering. If you go out, practice health directives such as handwashing and social distancing by staying six feet away from others. Please help prevent the COVID-19 virus from reaching POW Island.

We encourage citizens to follow these CDC recommendations:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often;
- Avoid touching your nose, face and mouth;
- Use sanitizer that is at least 60 percent alcohol;
- Avoid people who are sick to help protect yourself;
- To protect others, stay home if you are sick, cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect surfaces, and remember that you could be asymptomatic but still carrying the virus.

If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus, you should take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, **call your healthcare provider for medical advice**.

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.coronavirus.alaska.gov.