

# We can do this, Alaska! Social distancing saves lives

Keeping a safe distance from others (at least six feet) can play a critical role in controlling the spread of pandemics. Here's the math to show you why. Scientists measure the intensity of an infectious disease by its reproduction number ( $R_0$ ). This modeling assumes a median incubation period of five days – meaning that if someone gets sick, it typically happens about five days after exposure.

$R_0$  is the average number of people a sick person will infect



For **COVID-19**, this has been estimated at 2.5

## Here's what it looks like if Alaskans reduce their social exposure by 75%

DAY 1



1 Person

INFECTS

DAY 5



0.625 People **INFECTED**

DAY 30



2.5 People **INFECTED**

## Here's what it looks like if Alaskans can reduce social exposure by 50%

DAY 1



1 Person

INFECTS

DAY 5



1.25 People **INFECTED**

DAY 30



15 People **INFECTED**

## Here's what it looks like if there is no reduction in social exposure (if no one follows Alaska's social distancing mandate).

DAY 1



1 Person

INFECTS

DAY 5



2.5 People **INFECTED**

**406 People  
INFECTED  
IN 30 DAYS**

**It's simple math: Staying home saves lives.  
Learn more at [coronavirus.alaska.gov](https://coronavirus.alaska.gov).**