



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of  
Health and Social Services

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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April 1, 2022

Dear Seafood Industry Partners,

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is sending you this letter in regard to ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts in the seafood industry. We understand the tremendous benefits that the seafood industry brings to Alaska and the critical importance of assuring safe and productive operations. We share the priority that our seafood industry partners have continued to uphold with their commitment to maintaining a safe workplace for staff. Therefore, for your convenience, below are some clarifying points regarding COVID-19 mitigation in the seafood industry.

*Is there a state COVID-19 mandate for the seafood industry?*

No, there is currently no mandate to require or enforce COVID-19 recommendations in Alaska. However, we appreciate that many seafood processing operations in Alaska are high-density, remote worksites with congregate living, which can facilitate the rapid transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (the cause of COVID-19), and we stand ready to assist communities and companies in minimizing adverse health and economic outcomes for seafood processing operations.

Due to the wide variation of conditions between geographic regions, additional guidance may be recommended by local governments and regional fishery associations as well as within other states where fleets may operate.

The State of Alaska supports your work in developing a Workforce Protection Plan based for each vessel or worksite, as appropriate, including but not limited to education, reducing disease spread, supporting the health of the work force, responding to outbreaks, caring for ill individuals until definitive care can be obtained, and seeking guidance and support from DHSS as needed as well as reporting all required reportable conditions. Information about all conditions reportable to DHSS of Alaska is [here](#) ([7 AAC 27.005](#) and [7 AAC 27.007](#)). Further details about reporting COVID-19 cases are [here](#).

*Does the current CDC maritime guidance apply to the seafood industry?*

No, current CDC [maritime-specific guidance](#) for COVID-19 applies to cruise ships, cargo/container ships, bulk carriers, offshore ships, and special purpose ships (e.g., research vessels). It is not intended for seafood processing worksites, but there are resources available, see below.

*Does OSHA have any COVID-19 resources for mitigating COVID-19 in the seafood industry workplace?*

Yes, please see the appendix in OSHA's [Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace](#), as well as the [CDC isolation and quarantine guidelines](#), and CDC guidelines for congregate settings.

*Who can I contact for more information?*

- Questions about COVID-19 isolation and quarantine: [Alaska Section of Epidemiology](#)
- Concerns about my community: [Contact your local Public Health Center](#)
- Reporting of COVID-19 results: [Reporting COVID testing to the State of Alaska](#)

The Alaska Sections of Epidemiology and Public Health Nursing are available for consultation to assist in providing guidance on mitigation recommendations. We look forward to ongoing regular and robust partnerships to ensure a healthy and productive workforce.

Sincerely,

Adam Crum, Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ACrum', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Anne Zink, MD, FAACP, Chief Medical Officer  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services