



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA

P.O. BOX 1209

HAINES, AK 99827

(907) 766-6400 * FAX (907) 766-2716 * www.hainesalaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Haines EOC PIO Margaret Friedenauer

PHONE: 907-303-3768

EMAIL: megfrieden@gmail.com

Updated guidelines for travelers and industry response

Haines, Alaska March 19 2020 - The Haines Borough Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would like to outline a few details about our local response as it stands today. In this press release we will address:

- Revised guidelines for travelers
- How industry is responding
- Volunteer efforts

Revised guidelines for travelers:

The Haines Borough EOC has recognized the self-quarantine recommendation given in our March 18, 2020 press release may place hardships on individuals. The Haines EOC recognizes and recommends the state mandate currently in place and outlined here:

<https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

Many community members are choosing to self-quarantine if they are returning to Haines from anywhere, including other parts of the state. Please respect your neighbor's choices.

How industry is responding

The EOC has been in contact with the heliski and mining industry to understand how they are responding to state mandated travel restrictions.

As of today, the EOC Commander was told that no new heliski clients are arriving in Haines for the rest of the season. Two companies have shut down operations entirely. One company has a few clients remaining in town, but they are taking steps with these clients to practice social distancing. These were difficult but pro-active steps taken by the heliski industry during what was on track to be a successful season with excellent snow conditions. Thank you to these companies for their efforts in protecting the community.

The EOC Commander was notified that Kensington Mine continues operations but is closely monitoring workers traveling from out of state.

Volunteer Efforts

Volunteers are setting up networks to help neighbors including running errands and delivering groceries. The Senior Center is doing meal delivery. The non-profit sector is organizing additional efforts. We expect to be able to share these details with you tomorrow.

About the Haines EOC:

The Haines Borough (“Borough”) is working diligently to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community. The Emergency Operations Center has been meeting daily to update response protocols with the latest information from the CDC, State of Alaska and local health officials. The EOC team will continue to meet daily or as often as the situation warrants. The Borough will continue to provide daily updates no later than 3 pm and more often throughout the day if information significantly changes. All announcements will be posted on the Haines Borough website, Haines Borough Covid 19 Information Facebook page, posted on NIXEL and announced on KHNS-FM.

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