

Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters
Appendix 03 to Health Mandate 017
Issued: May 15, 2020

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This Appendix will establish general guidance for commercial fishing harvesters operating from shore, open skiffs, and other means where the crew is not living on board a vessel for multiple days at sea.

I. Applicability.

- a. This Appendix applies to all commercial fishing harvesters who do not meet the applicability definition for independent commercial fishing vessels contained in Health Mandate 017, and that have not agreed to operate under a fleet-wide plan submitted by a company, association, or entity that represents a fisheries sector.

II. Definitions.

- a. Self-Quarantine. This refers to a quarantine process that is not monitored by an employer or healthcare provider. The requirements of Health Mandate 010 remain in effect: all people arriving in Alaska, whether residents, workers, or visitors are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after arriving in the State and monitor for illness.
 - i. Harvesters' temperature should be taken twice daily during self-quarantine. Should fever symptoms develop, follow the Identification protocol in Section VIII.a. Seek testing and medical treatment immediately if symptoms are suspected to be caused by COVID-19.
 - ii. The time spent in transit from the final out-of-state port to Alaska on a vessel, demonstrated through a ship's log or equivalent record, will count toward the in-state 14-day mandatory self-quarantine period, if all protective measures are followed.
 - iii. Once the initial self-quarantine period after arriving in the State has been observed, there is no requirement to repeat the self-quarantine period when moving between Alaskan communities, though it is highly recommended for all Alaska residents to follow the procedures in Section IV.a when traveling from their permanent home to their Harvesting Operation worksite.
- b. Harvesting Operation. Multiple harvesters working at the same site in close proximity will be considered an Harvesting Operation. They may be in shared
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State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters
Appendix 03 to Health Mandate 017
Issued: May 15, 2020

accommodations or separate facilities, but using the same equipment and selling their catch collectively.

- c. Site Manager. Though there may be several individual permit holders in an Harvesting Operation, the senior permit holder who conducts business transactions on behalf of the Harvesting Operation will be considered the Site Manager, and be responsible for enacting and enforcing this Appendix within his or her Harvesting Operation.

III. Documentation. Site Managers are required to maintain written or time-stamped electronic documents covering, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. An acknowledgment of the requirements of this Mandate and all applicable appendices and an explicit agreement to comply with this protective plan and enforce it for their Harvesting Operation.
- b. Certification that harvesters were screened upon arrival to the worksite in accordance with Paragraph V.
- c. Certification when harvesters have completed self-quarantine in accordance with Paragraph IV.

For the 2020 season, each Site Manager must sign the Health Mandate 017 Acknowledgement Form (Appendix 02) prior to actively participating in the 2020 commercial fishing season. This form will indicate that the Site Manager will comply with this Mandate and applicable appendices and enforce all requirements among any other harvesters in the same Harvesting Operation.

Prior to accepting any fish - or making any payment for fish to an independent harvester - a tender or processor must receive and confirm a signed copy of the Site Manager's Acknowledgement Form. The Site Manager must submit a copy of the Acknowledgement Form the first time they sell fish to a tender or processor. Subsequent sales to the same tender or processor do not require submission of another copy of the Acknowledgement Form (*e.g.*, the form only needs be submitted once per fishing season per tender or processor), but every tender or processor that a Harvesting Operation sells to must have, and retain until December 31, 2020, a signed copy of the Acknowledgement Form. This form shall be provided to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game upon request.

By accepting the Acknowledgement Form, the tender or processor may rely upon the submission of the Acknowledgement Form as proof of compliance of Health Mandate 017 and all applicable appendices. The tender or processor is not required to confirm

compliance with Health Mandate 017, other than to collect the Acknowledgment Form, and assumes no liability for any failure to comply with any Harvesting Operation.

IV. Travel and Quarantine Options. Harvesting Operations will make every effort to prevent a potentially infectious harvester from exposing other harvesters or community members during travel, and in their final destination community in Alaska. Harvesting Operations will arrange for their arriving harvesters to follow one of the following methods:

- a. **Mid-Travel Quarantine.** Harvesters will travel to Alaska and observe a 14-day self-quarantine period in temporary lodging in a large community that has a General Acute Care or Critical Access Hospital (*i.e.*, Anchorage or Juneau) prior to beginning onward travel to their final destination community. This method will allow harvesters to immediately begin provisioning and operating under the protective measures in Section VI below upon arrival to their destination community.
 - i. **Travel.** All harvesters in transit on commercial aircraft must wear a cloth face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their quarantine facility.
 - ii. **Self-Quarantine.** All harvesters will comply with the protective measures set by Health Mandate 010, the local government, and their lodging facility during self-quarantine.
 - iii. **Testing.** To the greatest extent possible, harvesters should receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to commencing onward travel to their destination community, or as close as possible to the end of their quarantine to receive results prior to commencing onward travel. Harvesters should retain documentation of test results.
 - iv. **Arrival Screening.** All harvesters will be screened (see Section V) for symptoms upon arrival at the worksite prior to being allowed to enter the lodging facility.
 - v. **Alaska Residents.** This method is not required, but is highly recommended, for all Alaska residents to follow when traveling from their permanent home in Alaska to their Harvesting Operation worksite.
- b. **Post-Travel Quarantine.** Harvesters will travel to their final destination community in Alaska and observe a 14-day self-quarantine period prior to any interaction with harvesters from other Harvesting Operations or members of the local community. This method will require harvesters to follow stricter protective

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.alaska.gov
State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters

Appendix 03 to Health Mandate 017

Issued: May 15, 2020

measures in Section IV.b.iv after arrival to their destination community while in their 14-day self-quarantine period.

- i. Travel. All harvesters in transit on commercial aircraft must wear a cloth face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their quarantine facility.
- ii. Testing. If locally available, arriving harvesters should receive a PCR test within 48 hours of arrival at their destination community, preferably prior to entering their self-quarantine lodging. The initial test may be conducted en route to their destination community. Harvesters should retain documentation of test results.
- iii. Arrival Screening. All harvesters will be screened (see Section V) for symptoms upon arrival at the worksite prior to being allowed to enter the lodging facility.
- iv. Self-Quarantine. Arriving harvesters must proceed directly to their designated self-quarantine location, must practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and transport to the worksite or self-quarantine location unless it is to receive a PCR test.
 1. If possible, arriving harvesters will quarantine in single rooms and practice social distancing from other members of the Harvesting Operation. If single rooms are not available, and/or social distancing is not feasible, the entire Harvesting Operation will observe quarantine together.
 2. If a new harvester joins a quarantined Harvesting Operation and social distancing is not feasible, the 14-day clock will re-start for the entire Harvesting Operation.
 3. Quarantined harvesters must maintain social distancing measures from all people outside of their Harvesting Operation, regardless of their quarantine status.
 4. Harvesting Operations must arrange for provisioning via delivery services, curbside pick-up, or supply runners.
 5. Quarantined harvesters may not enter public spaces, to include retail stores, for any reason other than to seek medical attention.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.alaska.gov
State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters

Appendix 03 to Health Mandate 017

Issued: May 15, 2020

6. If the lodging facility is not adjacent to the worksite, quarantined harvesters may only travel between their designated self-quarantine lodging and worksite.
 7. Harvesting Operations may commence work and begin fishing during quarantine, provided they can maintain social distancing measures from all people outside of their Harvesting Operation. If they need to off-load catch during this time, they must inform the tender, processor, or transporting agent of their quarantine status.
- V. Compliance with this Mandate does not constitute a right to travel or access into any areas. It is incumbent upon the individual traveler to ensure that any proposed travel itinerary is still possible and to adhere to any and all additional restrictions enacted by air carriers and lodging facilities
- VI. **Screening of Personnel.** All harvesters will be screened upon arrival to the worksite or lodging facility, using the following procedures, or an equivalent, medically-vetted procedure. Site Managers may wish to arrange for dedicated spaces to conduct arrival screening in a space that can be disinfected should an arriving harvester fail the screening.
- a. Verbal Screening Questions
 - i. Have you experienced any cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, sore throat, unusual fatigue, or symptoms of acute respiratory illness in the last 72 hours?
 - ii. Have you experienced a fever (100.4° F [38° C] or greater using an oral thermometer) within the last 72 hours?
 - iii. Have you experienced signs of fever such as chills, aches and pains, etc., within the last 72 hours?
 - iv. In the past 14 days, have you traveled in an area or country with widespread COVID-19 transmission without practicing social distancing?
 - v. Have you had contact within the past 14 days with a lab-confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case-patient? (Contact defined as being within six feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (ten minutes) or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case).
 - b. Physical Screening
 - i. Each harvester should demonstrate a measured temperature of < 100.4° F [38° C]. (This reference is for oral temperature, a forehead (temporal)

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State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

scanner is usually 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) lower than an oral temperature. An ear (tympanic) temperature is 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) higher than an oral temperature.)

- ii. Anyone performing a physical screening should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). If PPE is not available, the harvester may take their own temperature.
- iii. Each harvester must be free of fever or respiratory symptoms. A possible exception would be if harvester has mild symptoms that are clearly attributable to another source (i.e., allergies).
- c. If a harvester fails verbal or physical screening or is displaying viral symptoms they will immediately be isolated in accordance with Section VIII.b.
- d. Additionally, site managers should assess each harvesters' individual risk factors (e.g., older age; the presence of chronic medical conditions, including immunocompromising conditions) and enact additional protective measures as needed to minimize their risk.

VII. Protecting the Public. After all members of an Harvesting Operation have completed quarantine, it is anticipated that harvesters may have local community contact. Harvesters must use the following procedures to limit contact with members of the public to the greatest extent possible:

- a. For harvesters who live locally or return to port daily, harvesters and families or roommates must comply with all social distancing protocols.
- b. Travel to high-traffic areas in communities such as retail stores will be kept to an absolute minimum. Harvesting Operations should take advantage of delivery services, curbside pick-up, and supply runners as much as possible.
- c. All face-to-face interaction between harvesters and other fisheries industry workers will be kept to an absolute minimum, such as receiving for supplies, off-loading catch, fish tickets, and refueling. Those interactions that cannot be conducted remotely must follow social distancing guidelines.
- d. Private sector businesses such as retailers, hotels, and air carriers may also enact additional measures as a part of their protective plans which must be followed in order to obtain their services.

VIII. Worksite/Campsite Protective Measures.

- a. Harvesting Operations should encourage basic common hygiene practices, such as frequent and thorough hand washing; respiratory etiquette, including covering

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.alaska.gov
State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

coughs and sneezes; discouraging harvesters from using others' personal property, work tools, and equipment.

- b. Harvesters are required to stay in their assigned accommodations if they are sick.
- c. Harvesting Operations should confine harvesters to their own campsite and practice social distancing with neighbors as much as possible.
- d. Best practices for food preparation and dining areas are:
 - i. Ensure all harvesters wash hands before eating or touching any food items or utensils.
 - ii. Any harvester with cough or respiratory symptoms must eat separately.
 - iii. Eliminate buffet or family-style dining and any common serving dishes. Identify one harvester to handle food and to prepare a plate for each harvester. Do not allow serving utensils to be shared.
 - iv. Consider having a designated harvester prepare individual snacks for the day and distribute it to each harvester. Eliminate common bowls of snacks or opportunities for multiple people to touch food or packaged food products.
 - v. Consider the use of single-use cups/plates/etc.

IX. Procedures for Harvesters who Become Ill. Harvesting Operations must follow the following procedures for identification, isolation, and assessment of harvesters who begin to show symptoms of infection:

- a. **Identification.** Screen all harvesters daily for:
 - i. New signs of fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of smell or taste, unusual fatigue or shortness of breath
 - ii. If there is a respiratory illness identified, take temperature twice daily of each harvester
 - iii. If symptoms are presenting, repeat the screening from Paragraph II.
 - iv. If a harvester screens “yes” to any of the symptom questions (1-3), place a surgical mask on, if tolerated.
 - v. If a harvester screens “yes” to BOTH: (1) any of the symptom questions (1-3); AND (2) an epidemiological risk factor questions (4 or 5), place a surgical mask on harvester, if tolerated, and isolate per the **Isolation**

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State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

protocol below. If an isolation room is not available, consider all members of the Harvesting Operation under isolation.

- vi. Evaluating provider must don appropriate PPE and begin to document who has had exposure to the harvester within the last two days.
- vii. If available, or as soon as practicable, obtain a rapid influenza swab. If positive, and no other reason to suspect COVID-19, treat harvester as an influenza case, not a COVID-19 case. There can be co-infection with COVID-19 and influenza, if there is any suspicion for COVID-19 exposure in the prior 14 days, continue to treat as a suspected COVID-19 case.
- viii. If a harvester screens “yes” to fever and respiratory symptoms, but does not clearly have an exposure that would qualify for a COVID-19 suspect case, seek medical evaluation and, at a minimum, recommend isolation for 72 hours AFTER the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medications AND an improvement in initial symptoms (i.e., cough, shortness of breath) before returning to work.

b. Isolation. Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. When possible, isolate sick harvesters in a separate room and designate a bathroom or head that is only for the isolated crew. For Harvesting Operations that cannot accommodate isolation, consider all members of the Harvesting Operation under quarantine for 14 days.

- i. If a harvester is identified as a potential COVID-19 case, immediately ask them to wear a surgical mask (not an N-95) if tolerated. If there are no surgical masks available, a cloth face covering may be used as a last resort.
- ii. Place the harvester in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available. Place a label on the door indicating no one is to enter the room without proper PPE. This room should have a separate toilet and bathing facilities.
- iii. Any staff entering the room should use Standard Precautions, Contact Precautions, and Airborne Precautions, and use eye protection such as goggles or a face shield. If N-95 masks are not available, a surgical mask may be considered an acceptable alternative at this time.
- iv. Access to the room should be limited to personnel involved in direct care. Meals should be delivered to the room and dishes and utensils cleaned separately. Anyone with exposure to the harvester should document the date and time of exposure, nature of exposure (close contact, same room,

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.alaska.gov
State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters

Appendix 03 to Health Mandate 017

Issued: May 15, 2020

secretions), and PPE worn. Meticulous hand hygiene must be performed immediately after doffing PPE.

- v. Maintain a distance of six feet from the sick harvester and keep interactions with them as brief as possible.
- vi. Limit the number of people who interact with sick people. To the extent possible, have a single person give care and meals to the sick person.
- vii. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- viii. Wash your hands often with soap and warm/hot water, and wash your hands immediately after leaving the presence of the sick crew member with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, and if hands are not visibly soiled, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- ix. Provide tissues and access to soap and water, and ask the sick harvesters to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue (or facemask) when coughing or sneezing.

c. **Notification.**

- i. If a harvester becomes ill with suspected or confirmed COVID19, the Site Manager must contact local public health nursing for further guidance:
- ii. Dillingham Public Health Center: 842-5981
- iii. Homer Public Health Center: 235-8857
- iv. Ketchikan Public Health Center: 225-4350
- v. Kodiak Public Health Center: 486-3319
- vi. Nome Public Health Center: 443-3221
- vii. Petersburg Public Health Center: 772-4611
- viii. Sitka Public Health Center: 747-3255
- ix. Valdez Public Health Center: 835-4612
- x. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Nursing/Pages/locations.aspx>

- 1. For a person ill or injured and not suspected of COVID-19 follow an established process to evaluate for establishing healthcare.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.alaska.gov
State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

2. If the ill harvester is not directed to a medical facility, the Harvesting Operation may continue to fish and complete a 14-day quarantine. If unloading to a tender/processor is necessary during this time, the Harvesting Operation must tell the tender/processor it has a sick harvester. During the unloading, all crew must wear gloves and face coverings.
- d. **Transportation.** Procedure on transportation of suspected COVID-19 cases at disembarkation
- i. For the harvester with suspected COVID-19: A facemask should be worn by the patient for source control. Alternatively, an oxygen mask can be used if clinically indicated. If the patient requires intubation, *see*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html> for aerosol-generating procedures.
 - ii. If ambulance transportation is required: Local EMS should be notified that this is a potential COVID-19 case so that responders may use appropriate PPE and follow their protocols.
 - iii. If private vehicle transportation is utilized: Anyone who will be driving a harvester with suspected COVID-19 should maintain as much distance from the harvester as possible, wear a mask if available, and avoid unnecessary contact with the ill person and their belongings. If the driver will provide direct care to the ill person (*e.g.*, moving patients onto stretchers), they should wear recommended PPE. After transportation is complete, and before reentering a driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of any PPE in a sealed plastic bag and perform hand hygiene. Windows should be down to allow for air exchange if possible.
 - iv. Personnel should avoid touching their face while transporting.
 - v. The receiving healthcare facility must be notified that a patient with suspected COVID-19 is being brought in so that they may take appropriate infection control precautions.
- e. **Quarantine.** Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. If separate accommodations with designated bathrooms are available, this procedure may be considered for the individual crew. Otherwise, consider the entire Harvesting Operation under quarantine.
- i. Harvesters who have had high-risk exposures to a person suspected of having COVID-19 should be quarantined in their assigned accommodations. All potentially exposed members should avoid leaving

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.alaska.gov
State of Alaska COVID-19 Mandate 017 – Appendix 03

the worksite or lodging facility and self-monitor under the supervision of the site manager or telemedicine providers until 14 days after the last possible exposure. If an entire Harvesting Operation is under quarantine, they may continue to work.

ii. A high-risk exposure could occur through close contact with the suspected case without PPE. Close contact is defined as:

1. being within approximately six feet (two meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (ten minutes or longer); (close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case);

OR

2. having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on).

iii. For a Harvesting Operation with a suspected case, consider the entire crew to have had a high-risk exposure.

iv. If personnel develop fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or other symptoms of COVID-19 while in quarantine, they should be isolated and undergo a medical assessment, reporting, and transportation as per the other relevant sections of this Appendix.

v. The site manager and telemedicine providers should remain in contact with personnel through the self-monitoring period to oversee self-monitoring activities.

vi. The remaining exposed harvesters must complete a 14-day quarantine period, from the time the sick harvester is transported, in a suitable quarantine location.

X. Continuity of Fisheries Operations.

a. Site managers should consider the impact that this pandemic will have on the fishing industry as a whole, their suppliers, and wrap-around services such as fuel, groceries, and lodging.

b. Site managers should consider the potential impact on their operations that may arise as a result of outbreaks or increased rates of harvester absenteeism, and enact plans for cross-training harvesters to the greatest extent possible.

Alaska Protective Plan for Independent Commercial Fishing Harvesters

Appendix 03 to Health Mandate 017

Issued: May 15, 2020

- c. Site managers must temporarily cease operations if they do not have enough healthy harvesters remaining to safely run the Harvesting Operation.