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AMA Recommendations for Mining Field Season During COVID-19 Response

AMA has provided this document as supplementary suggestions to the State of Alaska and other government agency approved guidelines and health mandates. Please note these are recommendations only and requirements from health officials supersede the information contained herein. All field season activity questions should be directed to the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center at (907) 428-7100.

Find the State of Alaska's most current information at: <https://covid19.alaska.gov>

1. Per the Alaska Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order, Section II(e)(i)(1) mining is identified as "critical infrastructure." This includes placer mining as well as seasonal exploration work.
2. Per Health Mandate 010, if placer miners are traveling from outside AK, they will be required to submit out a Traveler Declaration form by one of the following methods:
 - a. Submitting an online form at <https://ready.alaska.gov/Form>;
 - b. By email to akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com; or
 - c. By mail to Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, ATTN: Protective Plans Task Force, PO Box 5750, JBER, AK 99505-5750.
 - d. If you are flying to AK, forms are being made available by airlines and are collected by TSA at the airport.
 - e. If you are driving back to AK, know that the Canadian border is restricted to only essential travelers.

AMA advises you that you check with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to inquire if you will be allowed to transit through Canada to Alaska, and to determine what type of documentation will be required. The CBSA hotline is available 24/7, staffed by officers who can assist with border questions: 1-204-983-3500 or 1-506-636-5064.

Also, AMA suggests you carry documentation of your work in Alaska and that your work site is essential and open.

f. Per Health Mandate 010, if any workers are traveling interstate, you must submit a plan or protocol outlining how you will avoid the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger the lives of the communities in which you operate, of others who serve as a part of that infrastructure or the ability of that critical infrastructure to function.

Please visit <https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command/protective-plans/>

3. Upon arrival in AK, all miners and their families coming in from outside of Alaska will be REQUIRED to quarantine for 14-days in the location designated on the Traveler form. AMA advises that the miner may move from the airport directly to the work site as a single unit and begin 14 days quarantine at the work site while working, as long as there is **no community interaction** along the way.

AMA suggests that if miners deem their operation/exploration site their place of quarantine, they must plan accordingly. This would require advanced purchases of supplies to be delivered to your site by local providers. Please see the Alaska Miners Association website at <http://www.alaskaminers.org/ama-covid-19> for a listing of these providers.

4. For miners who have been in Alaska and who have been abiding by the “hunker down” orders in Health Mandates 011 and 012, you can purchase supplies/provisions at the appropriate store IN YOUR LOCAL HOME AREA, as long as you maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, cover your face, and follow other related health guidelines, such as frequent handwashing, presented on the State’s COVID-19 website covid19.alaska.gov

Miners may travel from their home to the work camp utilizing their standard means of transportation but should maintain social distancing and wear a face covering if stopping to purchase fuel along the way. Wash or sanitize your hands immediately after purchasing fuel and before continuing to your placer site.

5. Per Health Mandate 012, if any workers are traveling between communities, you must submit a plan or protocol outlining how you will avoid the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger the lives of the communities in which you operate, of others who serve as a part of that infrastructure or the ability of that critical infrastructure to function.

- a. Please visit <https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command/worker-mitigation-plan/>

6. Once at your placer mine, stay at your work camp, just as you would your home, and monitor yourself for symptoms for 14 days.

- a. Stay current on health information and updates of health mandates. Information is available online at covid19.alaska.gov and many radio stations across the state are broadcasting the Governor’s daily COVID-19 status updates.

8. If you need to resupply while at your work camp, you may travel to your nearest grocery or parts store, but you MUST practice social distancing, consider covering your face if social distancing is going to be difficult to maintain, and wash or sanitize your hands.
9. In general, good hygiene and safe, careful operations at your work camp are more important now than ever before. Our medical system, while very focused on being prepared to assist a large number of COVID-19 patients, is still there to assist in the event you have any medical emergency. However, we are all trying to do our part to avoid the need for medical assistance so that much

needed supplies of blood, masks, gloves and hospital beds remain available in the event that Alaska experiences a large spike in COVID-19 cases. BE SAFE – STAY HEALTHY!

AMA advises you use pages 6-9 of the AME Field Guidelines available at AMA's website: <http://www.alaskaminers.org/ama-covid-19> to review best practices of personnel within work camps.

10. **AMA strongly urges** you plan to manage a COVID-19 case at your site. Include specifics on isolation, protection and monitoring of other employees, sanitization, and other protocols. Plans should include a concept that protects the residents of nearby small remote communities and does not rely on or exhaust the medical resources of those communities.