



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer City Council

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

1 October 26, 2020

2
3 Office of the Governor

4 P.O. Box 110001

5 Juneau, AK 99811-0001

6
7 Dear Governor Dunleavy,

8
9 As local elected officials, we are receiving significant concerns from our community members surrounding
10 the increase in community spread of Covid-19 and the resulting closure of our schools on the Southern
11 Kenai Peninsula. Entering what your administration calls 'Phase III: Maximizing Healthcare capacity and
12 response', the Homer City Council looks forward to working with DHSS and your staff to actively respond
13 and support our community through this winter.

14
15 Concerns that have been directly expressed from our community include:

- 16 • The need for **faster testing turnaround times**. It is taking up to five days, if not more, for our residents to
17 receive test results from the State lab.
- 18 • **Sufficient contact tracing** to ensure timely and comprehensive outreach to known close contacts of positive
19 individuals
- 20 • **Regionalized epidemiological information** to help understand what's happening in our community. How
21 are people contracting Covid-19 in our area? What are our hot spots, and are there targeted ways the
22 community/region can respond?
- 23 • **Continued/increased economic support** specifically for those facing a 14-day quarantine (or isolation due to
24 sickness) for themselves and/or dependent(s), and specifically in regards to lost wages heading into winter
25 and beyond the timeline for the City's CARES Act funds.
- 26 • **Continued/increased mental health support**

27 With numbers increasing daily here, our schools are closed for in-person learning through the end of
28 October. Parents are again in a terrible position of trying to work, run businesses, and support their children
29 - often without any additional childcare assistance.

30 As we look towards a winter of high case counts, the City of Homer stands ready to work in partnership with
31 your administration, Federal agencies, and community leaders to get our schools open, to support our
32 working families, our children, and our businesses. Together we can get through this difficult time,
33 maximizing every opportunity we have to respond in a timely way to mitigate social and economic harm.

34
35 CITY OF HOMER

36
37 cc: Adam Crum, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical
38 Officer, Department of Health and Social Services, Derotha Ferraro, PIO, South Peninsula Hospital, Lorne
39 Carroll, Public Health Nurse, Homer Public Health Center, John O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools, Kenai
40 Peninsula Borough School District, Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League