

Homer City Council 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

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To the Community of Homer,

The Homer City Council strongly encourages businesses, schools, non-profits, and government agencies within the City to employ stronger COVID mitigation measures at this time. Wearing a mask, socially distancing, and getting vaccinated all contribute to the overall health and safety of the community.

The rapid spread of the delta variant impacts the health of our friends, families, and neighbors while also disrupting our economy. The virus has taken a huge toll on many of us, physically and mentally. Inaction will not make it go away. The Council acknowledges that all of us, as Americans, are free to make our own choices about personal health matters; however, the pandemic gives us a reason to consider the health and safety of others when making those choices.

We encourage you to wear a mask in public, socially distance when possible, and consider getting vaccinated against COVID-19. These three easy steps can make a big difference in our collective effort to beat COVID and get back to normal. If you're uncertain about vaccination, talk to your doctor for professional advice.

The City of Homer does not have health powers and is unable to create mask mandates like you have seen in some other communities around the State of Alaska. We have, however, implemented COVID mitigation methods within City facilities. At this time, because of the high levels of community spread of the delta variant and hospitalization rates, masks are required in all City facilities regardless of vaccination status. This includes City Council members at the dais during Council meetings.

For organizations that are interested in pursuing enhanced mitigation measures, the City has developed some tools for evaluating COVID risk factors that we are happy to share with the community.

If we take care of ourselves, it will help us take care of each other.

Homer City Council