Opening Alaska Safely During COVID-19 Pandemic

Presenter:
Christina Lewis, MS REHS
Industrial Hygienist
Alaska Occupational Safety and Health
Introduction

White House Guidelines to Opening Up America Again

Alaska Health Mandates
  - General
  - Industry Specific
  - Alaska Specific

Conclusion
COVID-19

World Impact

Economic

Illness

Death

Flattening the Curve

Safely Re-open to begin to reverse economic impact of pandemic
White House Criteria for Re-Opening

Three Phases

- Will use up-to-date Data and Readiness
- Mitigate the Risk for Resurgence
- Protect the Most Vulnerable
- Implementable on Statewide or County-by-County basis at Governor’s Discretion
White House Three-Phase Strategy

Phase 1
- Only essential businesses opened

Phase 2
- More businesses open with restrictions for mitigation
- Vulnerable populations remain quarantined

Phase 3
- Vulnerable population joins society with caution
- General population avoids large crowds
Criteria to Qualify for Phase 1

**Symptoms**
- Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period
- Downward trajectory of COVID-like Syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period

**Cases**
- Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period
- Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period
Criteria to Qualify for Phase 1

- Ability to treat all patients without crisis care
- Have a robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing

Hospitals

Caveat

- Ability to step back a Phase
Alaska Phase 1 and Phase 2

Health Mandates

- Must be Followed - “Shall”

- Individual
  - Up to $25,000

- Business/Organization
  - Up to $500,000
  - Up to $2,500,000 in the event of a death

Reckless Endangerment - Class A Misdemeanor
Alaska Phase 1 and Phase 2

Health Alerts

“Should” be Followed

• No monetary penalty
Types of Guidance

- Social Distancing
- Hygiene Protocols
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Staffing
- Industry Specific Guidance
- Guidance Unique to Alaska
Social Distancing - Case Study - Early Release

- Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreak in Call Center in South Korea

- First known cases in the form of outbreaks at workplaces, religious activities, mass gatherings

- May 8 - Government notified of a case in the call center

- May 9 - Identified positive cases with symptoms, pre-symptomatic, asymptomatic - building was closed

- Mostly one side of work space between people in close proximity
Six feet or more between individuals and household groups

Provide alternative workspace and/or special accommodations for High Risk employees

No waiting in waiting areas

No reading materials or drink service in waiting areas

Cloth face coverings
  - “Must” be worn by employees and patrons in Phase 1;
  - Strongly recommended for Phase 2
Social Distancing

- Reservations only for Initial Opening
  - Walk-ins permitted in next Phase if logs of guests are maintained
- Limited building occupancies
- Establish COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
- Notify public of Plan
  - Symptomatic = Do Not Enter
Hygiene Protocol

- Provide handwashing capability or hand sanitizer
- Encourage frequent handwashing: Upon entering and leaving a facility, Upon returning home
- Keep facility stocked with hand soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer
- Post instruction on proper handwashing
How to Wash Hands

1. **Wet**
   - Wet hands with warm or cold running water

2. **Lather/scrub**
   - Lather/scrub hands with soap for 20 seconds (Happy Birthday 2x)

3. **Rinse**
   - Rinse hands with clean running water

4. **Dry**
   - Dry with a single-use paper towel or hand dryer

5. **Use**
   - If possible, use paper towel to turn off water
# Cleaning and Disinfecting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cleaning - Removing soil that is visible</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disinfecting (Sanitizing) - Removing that which is invisible (i.e. viruses and bacteria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use EPA-Registered disinfectants to ensure deactivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide disinfectant for frequent sanitizing of hand-contact surfaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doorknobs, light switches, desktop equipment, pens, commode levers, etc.</td>
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</table>

- Hourly - frequent public interaction
- Daily - little to no public interaction
Cleaning and Disinfecting

Chairs and other items after each service in personal care
- Massages, manicures, hair care

Entire facility
- Once per week
- Or...close down for 72 hours
- Immediately after an employee tests positive with COVID-19
Staffing

Employer to provide training to Employees on Health Mandates and Mitigation Plan

Employer must conduct pre-shift health screening

No employee with symptoms will provide service

Symptomatic or ill employees must not return to work

Employees excluded for 72 hours following a fever

Establish plan employees becoming ill and returning to work
Retail

- One person per household per visit
- Establish entryway/curbside orders/pickups and deliveries
- Utilize telephone and online ordering for contactless pick up and delivery
- Implement cashless and receipt-free transactions
Restaurants

PHASE 1 - 25% OF OCCUPANCY OR <20 PEOPLE - WHICHEVER IS LESS

PHASE 2 - 50% OF OCCUPANCY

ESTABLISH CURBSIDE/ENTRYWAY ORDERING/PICKUP AND DELIVERY SERVICE

USE DISPOSABLE UTENSILS, PACKAGED CONDIMENTS, AND DISPOSABLE MENUS WHERE POSSIBLE
Restaurants

Sanitize reusable menus after each use

Enter/Exit through different entryways

Hourly sanitizing of hand contact surfaces

Tables 10 feet apart
Bars

Opening in Phase 2

Indoor
- 25% of occupancy
- Individuals and household groups 6 feet apart at bar
- Tables 10 feet apart

Outdoor
- No more than 20 tables 10 feet apart

Walk-ins permitted if logs are kept

Face coverings strongly recommended
## Construction and Manufacturing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allow</th>
<th>Allow workers to don face masks over noses and mouths</th>
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<tr>
<td>Continue</td>
<td>Continue use of required PPE and provide training on donning PPE and protective clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>Six feet of social distancing throughout site and during safety briefings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep</td>
<td>Keep meetings short</td>
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</table>
Construction and Manufacturing

- Encourage respiratory etiquette - covering coughs and sneezes
- Alcohol-based rubs where handwashing isn’t immediately available
- Sanitize, as manufacturer allows, tools before and after use
- Portable toilet disinfected regularly
Phase 2

• Indoor limited to 25% occupancy
• Outdoor limited to 50 people including staff and spectators
• 10 feet social distancing in areas of exercise
• Workout equipment spaced 10 feet apart
• 6 feet of social distancing in areas with no exercise (i.e. locker rooms)
• Mark floor every 10 feet to help maintain 10-foot distancing
Lodging and Overnight Camping

- Reservations encouraged over phone or internet to encourage electronic payment methods.
- Host must ask if all parties of group are members of the same household.
- Non-household groups discouraged from sharing tents, cabins, etc.
- 25 feet between campsites of non-household members.
Fishing Charters

- Passengers bring own food and keep separate from crew food
- Passengers and crew do not share fishing equipment
- Passengers and crew must wear face-coverings
- If patrons are household members, charter can be full to legal load of vessel
- Non-household members - capacity to allow 6 feet of social distancing between groups
Intrastate Travel

Phase 1

Travel to other communities prohibited

- Exceptions
  - Buying/selling groceries
  - Receiving essential medical care
  - Caring for a family member

Travelers and returning residents undergo 14-day quarantine upon arrival
Intrastate Travel

Phase 2

- Household groups travel together
- Minimize stops to destination
- One person in group deals with vendors
- Sanitize/wash hands before leaving and returning to car
Small Remote Communities

- May adopt stricter guidelines than published by State of Alaska
- Some communities have severely restricted/completely halted travel
- Some communities not allowing community members to return
- Others, if they return - 14-day lockdown
- Celebratory gatherings at arrival of travelers suspended
- Packages handled like HazMat
- Reduced number of flights to remote areas
  - Rely on local game for food
Small Remote Communities

May not prohibit the arrival of:

- Emergency First Responders
- Law Enforcement
- Child Protective Services
- Seasonal workers, such as fishermen
Strategies for Small Communities with Seasonal Workers

- Require businesses to submit Travel and Mitigation Plans
- Set separate store hours for seasonal workers and the community
- Seasonal workers have no access to community homes
- Require workers to wear face coverings
- Require businesses to screen workers 48 hours prior to traveling to community
Examples of Screening Questions

Have you been confirmed positive for COVID-19?

Are you experiencing symptoms of acute respiratory illnesses?

Have you knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has been confirmed positive for COVID-19?

Have you traveled out of state in the last 14 days?

Have you knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has traveled out of state and is exhibiting symptoms?
General Duty Clause

- Employer must make good faith effort to abide by guidelines
- AKOSH Enforcement - Case by Case basis

Workers who feel safe can focus on organizational goals

Guidance for Developing Mitigation Plans

Abide by Social Distancing, Hygiene, and Sanitizing Protocols

- Ensure that we save lives and move into Phase 3 of Opening Alaska Safely
References

- White House Guide to Opening Up America Again
- State of Alaska Health Mandates
  https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/
- Coronavirus Disease Outbreak in Call Center, South Korea
- Safety and Health Topic COVID-19
  https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/
- Time Magazine - Alaskan Villages
  https://time.com/5813162/alaska-coronavirus/
Questions?

Contact Information
Christina Lewis, MS REHS
christina.lewis@alaska.gov
Desk: (907) 269-4922
Office: (907) 269-4955