



Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

NEWS RELEASE # 005

For immediate release: 07/08/2020, 9:00 p.m.

Valdez, AK – Valdez City Council approved Local Public Health Mandate 003 during their regular meeting on Tuesday. The mandate is effective as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020.

Local Public Health Mandate 003, which passed following a lengthy discussion and a 5-2 vote, requires all persons in Valdez over the age of five to wear a protective mask or cloth face covering in public or communal places outside the home where social distancing of six feet cannot be maintained.

The mandate does not apply to those who cannot wear a face covering due to medical conditions, mental health conditions, or disability or those performing an activity which cannot be conducted safely while wearing a mask. The mandate does not apply while actively eating or drinking.

Students enrolled in Valdez School District schools or a licensed childcare facility may be exempted during school activities as determined by Valdez School Board policy or DHSS childcare licensing requirements.

Visit www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19 to read the full mandate. To listen to the City Council discussion and vote regarding this mandate, visit: <https://bit.ly/3fd9YJN>.

“The Valdez medical community strongly recommends facial coverings as a way to decrease the spread of the SARS CoV-2 virus,” said Dr. Angela Alfaro, physician consultant to the Valdez Unified Command. “Masking is one small way we can work together as a community to prevent more extreme public health measures from being needed in the future. We recognize there are differing viewpoints on the mandate among our residents, but our hope is we can continue to show kindness and compassion and be good neighbors to each other.”

Businesses or non-profits who need assistance with door signs required under Mandate 003, educational posters regarding masking, or a starter supply of face coverings should email resources@valdezak.gov with their contact information and number of each item needed.

Residents in need of a cloth face covering can visit <https://bit.ly/2Zu23kD> to order one free from local volunteers. Shopping local and ordering a mask from a small business is also encouraged.

Learn more about cloth face coverings here: <https://bit.ly/2ArbDfO> (CDC) and here <https://bit.ly/3gmlRMF> (DHSS).

The Valdez Unified Command and public health officials continue to closely monitor the rapidly changing course of COVID-19. We remain committed to providing information, support, and resources to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Valdez during this unprecedented time.

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