

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

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Office of the
Governor

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Dunleavy Issues Statement on Two Positive COVID-19 Cases

March 16, 2020 (Anchorage) - Earlier this evening the Governor's Office was informed of two presumptive positive cases of the virus that causes COVID-19 from two patients from the Fairbanks area. Both individuals are stable and do not require hospitalization. At this time these cases do not seem to be from community to community spread because both of these individuals had been traveling in the lower 48.

"I want to commend Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for its response to these two cases," **said Governor Dunleavy**. "The preparation and training staff members have done not only in the recent weeks, but over the years has prepared them for today. We knew there would be cases in Alaska and over time we are expecting more cases."

"Even as we expect more cases in Alaska, we must remember each case is a person diagnosed with COVID-19," **said Dr. Anne Zink**. "Now and in the coming months we must always show compassion for the patients, but also the staff and the community. As we do this we must also remember the guidance we share with you in hopes of preventing and slowing the spread of this pandemic across our state."

Just yesterday Alaskans received guidance for [returning travelers](#).

If you are at Medium Risk please take these precautions for travelers returning within 14 days from outside of Alaska (including the rest of the United States) you should:

- Discuss your work situation with your employer before returning to work.
- Minimize contact with people as much as possible, self-monitor and practice social distancing.
- This may mean not going to work or school if you cannot safely be distanced from others – especially if you traveled in a location where community transmission is occurring.

By taking these precautions as well as following previous guidance including regular hand washing, cleaning surfaces and avoiding large gatherings (March 13 COVID-19 Health Alert: Recommendations for Keeping Communities Safe) we can hopefully keep ourselves and each other safe and healthy.

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