



Governor Mike Dunleavy STATE OF ALASKA

February 10, 2021

Alaska Critical Infrastructure Industries
Delivered Via Email

RE: Vaccination of Non-Resident Workforce

Dear Industry Leaders:

Our Critical Infrastructure businesses, which employ seasonal and rotation workforces, are a vital component of the Alaskan economy. The State of Alaska recognizes the tremendous effort that our fisheries, mining, and oil companies have made over the past year to operate as safely as possible during the ongoing pandemic. Alaska is allocated COVID-19 vaccine by the Federal government on the basis of our resident state population; however, we realize that protecting our seasonal and rotational workers, in turn, protects the communities in which they work. While working in our state or fishing in our waters, we intend to protect your workers with the same standard of care we are extending to all Alaskans.

The State of Alaska is expanding the opportunity for non-residents, who are here in Alaska, working as frontline essential workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 from the Alaska State vaccination allocation. We ask your industries to recognize the additional burden this places on the Alaska healthcare system, and abide by the following guidelines:

- 1) This action does not create any additional stocks of vaccine - it spreads the existing allocation to cover more individuals. No industry will be allocated a specific portion of vaccine at the State level at this time.
- 2) In order to be eligible to receive vaccine, non-resident workers *must* meet the other eligibility criteria (i.e., age, underlying conditions, risk of exposure, etc.) of the currently open vaccination Tier.
- 3) The expectation is that your workers will be vaccinated in the community in which they work, or at the nearest community with the capacity to administer the vaccine beyond the community's own population.

- 4) The current expectation is that all individuals receive their first and second doses of vaccine from the same provider. Please plan accordingly, and do not allow your workers to receive their first dose in a location where they will not be able to receive their second dose at the appropriate time.
- 5) Local vaccination prioritization and appointments will be made at the discretion of the local vaccination providers. Please do not advocate for vaccine, the State has limited supply.
- 6) Employers may elect to register as vaccine providers for their workforce. Companies may work together to leverage internal capabilities, such as one company providing all non- resident worker vaccinations in a given community or location.
- 7) Please bear in mind the guidance in the “Additional Notes” of the COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation: Phase 1b regarding sub-prioritization of frontline essential workers. Please be objective and empathetic in your efforts to get your workers vaccinated. There may be other facilities or populations that are at greater risk than yours.
- 8) Be prepared to provide your employees with a letter stating that they are a member of the State’s Critical Infrastructure and Essential Services Workforce, who will be here for 60 consecutive days or longer. The letter should also characterize their risk of exposure and whether or not they work in, or travel to, a rural community. A template for such letters is available from the Alaska COVID-19 Unified Command.

We look forward to a series of upcoming industry meetings where the State can share current allocations, discuss plans, and partner with you to start vaccinating your workforce. Please understand that while Phase 1b, Tier 2, is opening there is not enough vaccine for everyone. Alaska receives vaccine on a monthly basis and we anticipate an increase in vaccine allocation as the private market increases production.

Sincerely,



Ben Stevens
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor



Adam Crum
Commissioner
State of Alaska Health and Social Services