



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
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April 3, 2020

To: Bill Thomas, Special Assistant to the Governor
Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor, Alaska

Fr: Debra Schnabel, Haines EOC IC 

The Haines Borough would qualify as a Small Community under Attachment B of Health Mandate 12 except that we are on a road system. The Haines Borough is a Home Rule Borough and generally enjoys the autonomy of governing ourselves. We would benefit from a waiver from Attachment B or formal recognition as a small community. This recognition will give our local Assembly the ability to further restrict incoming travelers' movements in our community.

On March 24, prior to Mandate #12, the Haines Borough Assembly adopted Resolution 20-03-854 requiring that people traveling into the Haines Borough quarantine. Mandate #12 includes language that supersedes local authority except those exempted by Attachment B. Haines is not exempted because it is on the road system. The Haines Highway has 40 miles in US jurisdiction, and hundreds through Canadian wilderness to the Alaskan cities of Fairbanks and Anchorage, the only communities that could be our source of supplies and medical services, 750 and 850 miles distant. Effectively, this road system is not a measureable benefit to us in a health emergency.

Haines Borough has three portals: AMHS, an airport and the Haines Highway. The community is highly motivated to reduce any impacts that COVID-19 will have on Haines. We have a small clinic with 2 ICU beds. The Assembly would appreciate being authorized to enact measures that might restrict incoming travelers in order to control or stop the spread of the virus in our community.

As of today, Haines has no known active cases of COVID-19. We would like to keep it that way.

Please forward this information as appropriate. Thank you.