



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 23 March 2021
TO: City Manager
FROM: Richard Thompson, EOC Manager
SUBJECT: Department Report

STAFF REPORT

Inbound travel to Dillingham during the month of March rose over February with 338 forms submitted between 23 February 2021 (the last report date) and today. Multiple people are occasionally listed on the same form. Using the figure of 14.7% (rounded down to 14%) more travelers than forms submitted (calculated in February) an estimate of 385 travelers arriving in Dillingham via Alaska Air in March versus an estimated 250 travelers in February would be arrived at. It is unknown how many travelers arrived via other air carriers or where they came from.

The EOC is seeking funding from the State of Alaska via a COVID Community Memorandum of Agreement to provide mobile testing and vaccination services to underserved, general and transient fisheries populations, as well as to impact vaccine hesitancy in the community. Through a series of purchased local radio and print (postal) advertisements, regularly scheduled each week, the project seeks to increase awareness of the utility of vaccination and provide testing. The communications will attempt to reach homebound, non-English speaking or ESL persons, wage earners with limited time off, and vaccine hesitant persons. The communications will advertise times and locations of testing and vaccine availability. Radio communications will be in both Yupik and English.

If granted the MOA will provide funds for scheduled and advertised access to testing and vaccination services at specific locations and times. Locations under consideration include the boat harbor, congregate housing and employment locations (with permission), City Hall, city schools and the airport. Testing would be accomplished via field utilization of Abbott BINAX card test which returns a result in approximately 15 minutes for screening and positive or undefined returns will result in the re-contact of the test taker and submission of a confirmatory test to one of two Abbott ID NOW devices located in Dillingham. Vaccination is expected to take place in the field. This will be dependent on the brand of vaccine allocated.

The application for approximately \$102,000.00, to operate during at least the first two months of the summer fisheries season of 2021, has been filed with the State and was accepted. Today I met via video conference with the State of Alaska, DHSS, and representatives overseeing the project regarding the application. No significant corrections were required and the MOA application appears to be on track toward acceptance and award on 31 March.

Also in March I had the opportunity to work with Finance Director Anita Fuller to create a skeleton budget for the EOC as part of both the Finance Department’s and the EOC’s goals for this year. This will be the first budget for the EOC.

The rise in positive COVID case numbers seen earlier in the month of March appears to have ended for now. The “Positive Past 30 Days – City of Dillingham” count is steadily dropping. Please get vaccinated when you have the opportunity and remember – the virus will be around for a long time to come, vaccination, re-vaccination when the time comes, and attention to hygiene are part of our lives for at least the near future.

