

From: [John Handeland](#)
To: [Jerald Brown](#); [Mark Johnson](#); [Doug Johnson](#); [Meghan Topkok](#); [Jennifer Reader](#); [Adam Martinson](#)
Cc: [Glenn Steckman](#); [Bryant Hammond](#)
Subject: Fw: Request to reinstate COVID testing upon arrival into Nome immediately
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 4:06:18 PM

From: John Handeland
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Jamie Burgess; Brenna Outwater
Subject: Re: Request to reinstate COVID testing upon arrival into Nome immediately

Thank you, Jamie.

Your message is being forwarded to council members.

John

From: Jamie Burgess <jburgess@nomeschools.org>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:49:08 AM
To: Brenna Outwater
Cc: John Handeland
Subject: Re: Request to reinstate COVID testing upon arrival into Nome immediately

Warning! This message was sent from outside your organization and we are unable to verify the sender.

Thank you Brenna for your advocacy on behalf of our children. I would also support reinstating testing at the airport. NPS staff districtwide is over 90% vaccinated, and we hope that our community follows suit to protect our children. I know that universal masking will not be popular with some, but we must protect our youngest children who are not able to be vaccinated at this time.

On Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 10:39 AM Brenna Outwater <brenna.outwater@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Nome City Council Members;

I present my request to you as a concerned parent. As we gear up to begin our '21-'22 school year I would like to see the City of Nome reinstate the testing requirement upon arrival into Nome.

Our children under the age of twelve are not able to get vaccinated and those that are vaccinated are still able to get and spread COVID (ref: recent outbreak in Stebbins). From what I know, a vaccinated woman arrived into Nome from Anchorage and flew to Stebbins on a Tuesday. She did not get sick until that Friday and by then she exposed a number of people to the virus. Currently, there are over

100 residents that have tested positive for COVID, prompting the village to completely shut down. Please ask Dr. Peterson, Norton Sound Medical Director to inform you of how the recent outbreak in Stebbins began and to clarify how the variant is spread.

The measures that others are taking to help protect our community and villages are:

1. The Elementary school is requiring incoming teachers to test and/or quarantine in preparation for the first day of school. They are requiring children to wear masks all day, except for recess where they are still sectioned off.
2. Nome Beltz High School is requiring masks and encouraging people to get vaccinated. Not sure of their teachers testing/quarantine requirements. I called the High School and could not get an answer.
3. Dr. Peterson has encouraged meetings be held via zoom when possible and wearing masks in enclosed places regardless of vaccination status to limit the amount of possible exposure.
4. FAA is requiring masking up in enclosed spaces, not just in airliners, but in offices as well. They are unable to mandate vaccinations, but are highly encouraging it.
5. There are a number villages that are reinstating travel mandates due to the high number of active cases in our region.

Statistics show that our COVID cases are skyrocketing. According to the CDC case map we went from Low/Moderate in July to High in August. Hospitals in the southern part of Alaska are starting to become overwhelmed and I think it would be wise to try and stay ahead of this virus as much as we possibly can.

We wouldn't let a group of thirty unvaccinated people be in the same room every day of the week but we are allowing thirty children to do so? I believe we need to do our due diligence to protect our outlying villages, our children, our first responders, and our businesses by getting travelers tested. I would also encourage people to limit their non-essential travel until we can become fully vaccinated.

We are fortunate that the primary form of transportation into and out of Nome (for most people) is via aircraft. This is a tool that we can use to help identify those who are sick and to lessen the spread, so let's use it! When we wait for individuals to get sick or show symptoms before they are tested, we fail ourselves.

Please show support for the safety of our outlying villages, our local organizations/corporations, our schools, and those who cannot receive the COVID vaccine by requiring travelers to get tested regardless of their vaccination status.

A concerned parent,
Brenna Outwater

PH: 907-304-1306

--

Thanks.

Jamie S. Burgess
Superintendent, Nome Public Schools
907-443-6191