

PRESS RELEASE



MARCH 12, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOME COMMON COUNCIL DISCOURAGES ALL NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL TO NOME DUE TO COVID-19 THREAT

NOME, ALASKA. Due to the threat of COVID-19, the City of Nome is discouraging any and all travel to Nome Alaska in conjunction with the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Lonnie O'Connor Iditarod Basketball Classic.

At the Special Meeting of the Nome Common Council on March 12, 2020, the Council adopted a motion closing the following facilities to the public, effective March 14, 2020 to March 31, 2020:

The Nome Recreation Center
Old St. Joseph's Church
The Nome Swimming Pool
After School Activities at all Nome Public Schools facilities
The Nome Visitors' Center
The Richard Foster Building (including the Carrie M. McLain Museum, Katirvik Cultural Center, and the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library)

Public access to the Mini Convention Center (Iditarod Headquarters) will be limited to the degree City of Nome staff deem appropriate.

State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is recommending the following:

For the General Public

- Stay home if you are sick with a respiratory illness. If you develop a fever, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever subsides.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from anyone who is coughing, sneezing, or feeling feverish.
- Avoid large gatherings and crowded places as much as possible.
- Avoid shaking hands and hugging as much as possible.
- If you live in a rural area, consider limiting non-essential travel to protect your community.

For High-Risk Groups

- This group includes persons aged 60 years and over, and persons with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or other immune compromising illnesses.
- When you go out in public, try to maintain at least 6 feet distance from people – especially from people who are sick.
- Avoid crowds as much as possible, especially large gatherings.
- Avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel.