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**Department of Health
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cluster of COVID-19 cases associated with Fairbanks Medical Building

March 29, 2020 ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Section of Epidemiology has identified a cluster of COVID-19 cases in Fairbanks that are all connected to two medical practices in the building at 3745 Geist Road, which includes McKinley Orthopedics and Sports Medicine and ATI Physical Therapy. As of 3 p.m. on March 29, 15 cases in the Fairbanks/North Pole area have a known epidemiologic link to these practices. This is out of a total of 28 positive COVID-19 cases in the Fairbanks/North Pole area identified to date.

The practices in this building are cooperating with public health officials in the investigation and have been proactive and supportive of efforts to safeguard patients, staff and the Fairbanks/North Pole community.

March 9 was the earliest exposure date for a confirmed case from these practices and the most recent was March 19. Therefore, because of the ease with which this virus can spread and the potential that more members of the community are at risk, practices in the building have voluntarily agreed to close through April 2, which represents 14 days after March 19.

State of Alaska epidemiologists and public health nurses have already notified persons that have been identified as close contacts to confirmed cases associated with this cluster. However, out of an abundance of caution, everyone who spent time at these practices or with practice staff during March 9-29 is encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Persons who develop symptoms within 14 days of exposure should consult with a health care provider and notify the Fairbanks Public Health Nursing office at (907) 452-1776.

The [Governor's proclamations](#) regarding social distancing and other community mitigation measures are encouraged for all Alaskans, and can be especially applicable for ending spread in clusters such as this.

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