



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health and Social Services

ALASKA PIONEER HOMES  
Director's Office

P.O. Box 110690  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0690  
Main: 907.465.4416 / Toll free: 888.355.3117  
Fax: 907.465.4108

June 15, 2020

Family, friends, and residents:

The presence of the current COVID-19 pandemic in Alaska has resulted in a long period of separation for us all and the consequences are concerning to everyone. Thank you for your forbearance while we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the Pioneer Homes. Thank you also for your patience while everyone learned to FaceTime and have conversations through windows. The learning curve has been steep for some of us, but the results are amazing. However, while FaceTime and window visits are wonderful, they are not enough to keep loneliness away.

In order to address these feelings of loneliness and isolation in our residents, we've developed a visitation plan that also seeks to keep residents, staff and visitors healthy. It doesn't allow for hugs but it will take away the window.

The visitation plan (enclosed) will begin in each home after every resident and staff member in the home has received a baseline COVID-19 test *and* all test results are received *and* all test results are negative. Please be aware that each home may have a different start date for visiting, as it is dependent upon receiving all negative test results. In addition, other things may impact a home's ability to offer visitation. The amount of community spread of COVID-19, clusters of cases occurring in locations near the homes, or staffing availability all could delay or change visitation in an individual home.

We are making arrangements for regular testing of staff to be done every two weeks. We will also continue with our standard practice of testing every staff member or resident who has any symptoms. If at any time a positive test result is received, all visits will temporarily stop so that we can focus on infection control and to keep others from being exposed to the virus.

Please read the enclosed visiting instructions. Pioneer Home staff will be contacting you as soon as all test results are back and they are able to begin scheduling visits. Thank you for your continued patience as we complete this last step before visits can resume.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Hamilton".

Heidi Hamilton, ANP  
Division Director  
Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes  
(888) 355-3117



## Coming to visit at the Alaska Pioneer Homes

- ✓ Visits will be scheduled by the home.
- ✓ Visits will take place in a designated area. Visitors will be provided information on how to reach the visiting area. Visitors may be required to be escorted to and from visiting area by staff. Visitors will need to remain in the area until ready to leave.
- ✓ Visitors will need to maintain 6 feet between visitor and resident, as well as 6 feet between each visitor.
- ✓ Please wear your own face mask or cloth face covering. They will need to be worn at all times when at the Pioneer Home.
- ✓ Hand sanitization will be performed by visitors before and after visit. Hand sanitizing gel will be provided.
- ✓ Areas will be cleaned between visits and disinfectant spray will be provided.
- ✓ Visitors will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 when they arrive at the home and the visit may not be allowed if symptoms are identified.
- ✓ Length of visit time and frequency of visits may be limited to allow all family and friends an opportunity to visit. Please be respectful of others by showing up on time and being prepared to leave on time.
- ✓ Visitation will be immediately suspended if any positive test results are received.
- ✓ If a visitor is unable to follow these guidelines, the visitor may not be scheduled for another visit.