

DRAFT Mitigation Plan for the Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Southeast and Yakutat Meeting, March 10-22, 2022, Anchorage

March 7, 2022

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section

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## Lead Contacts

Glenn Haight, Executive Director, [glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov), text: 907-321-8982

Henry Leasia, Publication Specialist, [henry.leasia@alaska.gov](mailto:henry.leasia@alaska.gov).

## Current Conditions re: COVID-19

As of March 3, 2022, Alaska and communities were sustaining the COVID-19 case counts and related information provided in Table 1. While registration for the meeting is ongoing, it is assumed most of the participants will be coming from these Alaska regions/communities.

**Table 1**

Location	7-Day Case Rate <sup>1 2</sup>	Case Rate Trend as of 1/13/22	Risk Alert Level	Percentage of Fully Vaccinated
Alaska Statewide	38.1	253.1	High	55.8%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	44.9	244.4	High	65.6%
Petersburg Borough	49.3	103.0	High	66.9%
Wrangell City & Borough	--*	378.3	Low	60.8%
Prince of Wales	44.6	232.2	High	83.2% (Craig only)
Sitka	60.3	256.4	High	74.9%
Haines Borough	79.4	175.7	High	93.5%
City and Borough of Juneau	48.1	281.0	High	74.9%
Municipality of Anchorage	27.9	351.1	High	59.6%
Mat-Su Borough	26.4	118.9	High	40.7%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	26.0	197.2	High	48.2%

\* Rates based on less than 6 cases are not reported.

As Table 1 indicates, case counts in Alaska are falling precipitously. For the last two weeks of January, there were over 15,000 weekly cases. For the week ending February 27, the weekly total fell to 2,208.

As COVID-19 public health management changes, more at-home tests are available which leads to less reporting of cases. Health officials now look at hospitalization rates as a key metric in measuring and controlling the virus. Table 2 provides a review of hospitalization numbers in Alaska related to COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> The 7-day case rate is a common measurement for comparing the prevalence of COVID-19 in various communities or regions with different populations. Using 100,000 population as the flagpole, it asks “what is the average number of daily cases if you prorate the population to 100,000?”. In a community like Juneau with a population of 32,000, roughly a third of 100,000, if the community was sustaining 10 cases/day on average, it’s case rate would be 31.25. In a community like Anchorage with a population of 288,970, if there were 50 cases/day on average, it would have a case rate of 17.3.

<sup>2</sup> All data from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services daily COVID-19 updates.

**Table 2**

Recent Hospital Adult Bed Capacity <sup>3</sup>	Alaska Statewide	Anchorage	Matanuska-Susitna	Southeast
<b>On December 28, 2021</b>				
# Adult In-Patient Beds	1201	564	149	203
# Adult In-Patient Beds Used (% of total)	799 (67%)	506 (90%)	82 (55%)	59 (29%)
# with COVID-19	52	28	10	6
ICU Beds	127	72	14	15
ICU Beds Used (% of total)	90 (71%)	60 (83%)	7 (50%)	8 (53%)
# with COVID-19	10	7	2	1
<b>On January 13, 2022</b>				
# Adult In-Patient Beds	1151	589	149	125
# Adult In-Patient Beds Used (% of total)	896 (78%)	539 (92%)	103 (69%)	81 (65%)
# with COVID-19	88	57	15	9
ICU Beds	125	71	14	14
ICU Beds Used (% of total)	101 (81%)	64 (90%)	12 (86%)	8 (57%)
# with COVID-19	11	7	1	2
<b>On March 3, 2022</b>				
# Adult In-Patient Beds	1428	884	149	111
# Adult In-Patient Beds Used (% of total)	1128 (79%)	819 (93%)	59 (40%)	78 (70%)
# with COVID-19	56	36	4	4
ICU Beds	141	90	14	11
ICU Beds Used (% of total)	109 (77%)	83 (92%)	6 (43%)	4 (36%)
# with COVID-19	4	0	2	0

### Community of Anchorage Information

As of March 3, 2022, Anchorage is listed at a High Alert level by the State of Alaska. Consistent with the rest of the state's, Anchorage is seeing falling numbers but remains at a high case rate. For information on the conditions applied to the community at this alert level visit the community's COVID-19 website here - <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>.

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<sup>3</sup> This data comes from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. It represents adult bed capacities in General Acute Care Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals. Numbers are a function of hospital reporting. Large changes in absolute numbers such as # of Adult In-Patient Beds from January 13 to March 3, is a function of not having all hospital data.

## Expected Attendance

The Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting is expected to draw over 200 people between board members, staff and attending public. Table 3 provides a known breakdown at this time.

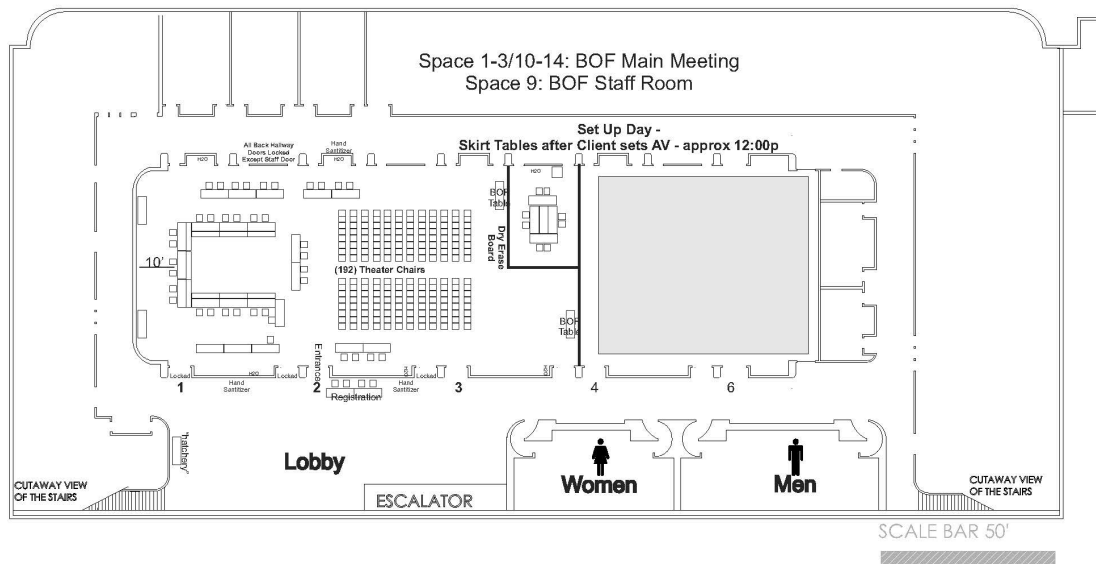
**Table 3**

Organization	Number of People	Notes
Board of Fisheries members	6	From Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla, Willow, Fairbanks, Petersburg, Soldotna
ADF&G – Boards Support	4	3 from Juneau, 1 from Fairbanks and Anchorage each
ADF&G – Commercial Fisheries	15	18 other staff members will participate remotely
ADF&G – Sport Fisheries	9	8 other staff members will participate remotely
ADF&G – Subsistence Section	3	1 other staff members will participate remotely
Other Agency Staff	2	All from Anchorage; another participating remotely
Advisory Committee members	9 (est.)	Pelican, Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, East Prince of Wales, Klawock, Upper Lynn Canal
General Public*	110	An estimate. As of March 3, approximately 170 individuals have completed registration with 60+ signing up for remote testimony.
Total in person	158	

\* Actual attendance will vary based on registration numbers between March 3 and the meeting, including registrations at the door.

## Facility Considerations

The Egan Civic and Convention Center is a city owned public facility. The meeting space planned for the Board of Fisheries is the lower floor Summit Hall. The total space dedicated to the meeting is room is just over 6,700 square feet as shown in Figure 1. The space for this meeting is considerably greater than usual, but will support efforts to social distance.



## Egan Center - Lower Level Summit Hall

Figure 1

There are several top floor entrances into the building. Attendees must register to join the meeting and will be provided with a badge that indicates registration. There will be a registration material and assistance at the regional coordinator desk in the meeting room. Pre-registration may be conducted at the board’s meeting webpage here -

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=01-04-2022&meeting=ketchikan>. The Egan facility has many of the standard COVID-19 mitigation features

including hand sanitizers and signage.

### Mitigation Measures

#### Pretesting

Pretesting is not a requirement of meeting attendees, but highly encouraged. Testing in one’s home community three days prior to travel will provide the attendee with information related to infection and whether travel is advisable. Attendees may use at-home antigen tests prior to attendance and according to package instructions. These are available in most communities either through the local public health center or through the respective city or borough.

#### Registration

Registration is required of all participants with the exception of the board and staff. Registration will contain contact information, acknowledgement of a waiver and release of liability, and requested sign-up times for public testimony.

A registration table will be stationed at the front desk and individuals entering will be given a badge and asked to have it available upon request throughout the meeting.

### Mask Requirement

Neither the State of Alaska nor the Egan Center require masks to be worn in the facility either when moving about and when six feet social distancing cannot be maintained. However, Boards Support strongly encourages attendees consider wearing a mask when joining for the meeting to avoid not only contracting COVID-19, but other common colds which could also derail the meeting. Please remember an outbreak of COVID-19 at the meeting has the potential to end the meeting.

### Signage

Boards Support will work with facility management to have appropriate and adequate signage around the building in key locations including the front entrance, when entering the meeting room, and in the main meeting area. Signage will provide -

- Encouragement to practice social distancing when possible.
- Encouragement to wash hands, use hand sanitizer, and other measures.
- Information on local medical providers.

### Traffic Flow

With no requirement to wear masks, there will be greater emphasis on traffic flow throughout the building. Basic floor markings will be made throughout the meeting area to assist in social distancing.

### Physical Equipment

Boards Support will set up sneeze guards around the regional coordinator/record copy desk. Ample hand sanitizer is available, and Boards Support has masks available on request. Boards Support also has microphone covers to use for shared microphones.

### Facility Measures

This mitigation plan represents the entirety of the facilities mitigation measures.

### Testing Facilities

The Anchorage Municipality website indicates at-home over the counter antigen tests are widely available at location pharmacies, some for no cost. There is an additional website that provides available testing facilities for that day. The site is: <https://anchoragecovidtest.org/>. Some testing facilities are free while others will bill to insurance.

Boards Support also has a small supply of home test kits if the need arises. In the event individuals begin to feel symptoms, there will be handouts and signage through the building on where to find the clinics. Attendees are reminded there are at-home antigen tests that may be taken prior to attendance and according to package instructions. These are available in most communities either through the local public health center or through the respective city or borough.

## Board Process Changes

There are several changes to the board process that will assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19. Sign-up for public testimony through early registration will help reduce the number of people in the board meeting room at the beginning of the meeting. This metered approach to handling public testimony will allow individuals to arrive near their scheduled time for testimony.

There will be increased video capacity in the room. Attendees can watch the meeting elsewhere and better time when they need to be in the room.

Committee of the whole meetings will be conducted using stationary microphones placed throughout the room rather than passing around a single microphone to all speakers.

Finally, many ADF&G staff members will participate remotely and/or time their entrance into the meeting room for when they are most needed. Side rooms with Zoom capacity will help facilitate side conversations between board members, staff, and stakeholders.

## In Meeting Plan

### Response Team

In the event of an outbreak at the meeting, Boards Support will notify all participants and organize a response team to assist affected individuals. Participants will be informed at the outset of the meeting, and repeatedly thereafter, that they can expect confidentiality from the response team in the event of sustaining COVID related symptoms.

The response team may consist of Boards Support, the facility manager, a representative from the Anchorage Health Department, and other appropriate contact tracers.

### Medical Facilities

There are several medical facilities in Anchorage with varying capacities for treating, testing, and vaccinating for COVID-19. There are several major hospitals and multiple urgent care facilities. Hospitals and clinics are easily found through a web search. Boards Support will assist in locating a suitable facility upon request.

### Symptom Observation

Attendees are encouraged to carefully monitor their own well-being. If an individual is feeling any common COVID-19 symptoms, they should not attend the meeting in person, and get tested at a testing facility or with an at-home test. Common COVID-19 symptoms include:

- persistent dry cough,
- sore throat,
- congestion/runny nose,
- fever,
- tiredness,



- aches and pains,
- sore throat,
- diarrhea,
- headache,
- loss of taste or smell,
- toes or fingers discoloration,
- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, and
- chest pain or pressure.

Boards Support staff will monitor for individuals displaying any of the common symptoms and will work with attendees if noted. Instructions to seek testing services will be listed throughout the meeting building.

### Testing

Testing is available with at-home testing kits available at local pharmacies and community testing sites that may be found at this Anchorage website: <https://anchoragecovidtest.org/>.

### Contact tracing

In the event of a COVID-19 case occurring at the meeting, the lead event contacts will coordinate with the Anchorage Health Department to determine if contact tracing is possible. Messaging will be sent to all registered participants regarding an outbreak with a recommendation that individuals who may know they were exposed to COVID-19 to seek testing. Any work of the contact tracers will be done with confidentiality towards all involved.

### Quarantining

Individuals who contract COVID-19 must isolate until they are no longer infectious. The duration of required isolation is now 5 days from symptom onset (or a positive test in an asymptomatic person), resuming normal activities on the 6<sup>th</sup> day if they are symptom free.

Unvaccinated individuals who were in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 must quarantine until the individual receives a negative molecular test performed on day 6 or 7 from the last date of exposure, resuming normal activities on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.

Vaccinated individuals who were in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if the individual remains asymptomatic. Vaccinated close contacts are not required to test; however, vaccinated close contacts are recommended to do so, regardless of symptoms, between days 5-7 from the last date of exposure.

### Transportation

Boards Support will endeavor to assist with transportation for individuals showing COVID-19 related symptoms.

## Communication Plan

Through the meeting registration, contact information for all attendees will be collected by Boards Support for rapid communication. Boards Support will use the contact information at several intervals. Prior to the meeting Boards Support will send registrants meeting updates including this mitigation plan. This communication will continue throughout the meeting if there are COVID-19 outbreaks or related medical issues. Boards Support will also include all emails in its Board of Fisheries subscription list for individuals interested in Southeast and Yakutat Areas.

In addition to meeting notices sent out as needed, there will be substantial signage throughout the building to serve as reminders and inform attendees on the change in process.