

## August 11<sup>th</sup> Travel Update FAQ

### What has changed in the August 11<sup>th</sup> travel update?

- The major change is that free testing at the airport is only available for Alaska residents. Non-residents need to arrive with proof of a negative test taken within 72 hours or proof of a test taken within 72 hours with results pending. If you have proof of a negative result you will still need to follow strict social distancing requirements. If you are waiting for results you will need to self-quarantine until your result is returned and then follow strict social distancing for 14 days or until a second negative test is taken and received at 7-14 days after arrival.
- Alaskans testing at the airport will need to self-quarantine until results are returned and then follow strict social distancing for 14 days or until a second test is taken and negative results received at 7-14 days after arrival.
- The State of Alaska is rolling out the Alaska Travel Portal ([www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com](http://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com)) where every traveler into Alaska will complete the Travel Declaration Form and a Self-Isolation Plan.

### How is Alaska residency determined?

- Accepted proof of Alaska residency for testing at airport:
  - Alaska driver's license or state issued ID card.
  - Active duty military ID card, active duty dependent ID card, DoD Common Access Card (CAD), or valid military orders.
  - Federally recognized Alaska tribal identification card.
  - Employment verification letter on employer letterhead or school verification letter for in person schooling stating a traveler is moving to Alaska for employment or school.
- Children ages 11-17 that are traveling with a parent/guardian will be considered a resident if their parent/guardian meets the residency requirements.

### Who will verify the traveler's residency status?

- Screeners at the one of the 10 airports that receives out of state flights.

### What is a self-isolation plan?

- Every traveler into Alaska is required to fill out a three question self-isolation plan in the Alaska Travel Portal. This allows travelers to consider their plan for what they will do if their test results return positive while in Alaska.

### What is considered an acceptable quarantine location?

- If test results are pending you are able to travel directly to your final destination and quarantine in place. This location can be any lodging, residence, RV, campsite or wilderness as long as you have cell service/internet access so that you can receive your results. You must be able to follow the quarantine requirements at your quarantine location and have a space separated from other people.

### What is strict social distancing?

- Strict social distancing is allowed after you have one negative test taken within 72 hours of departure or on arrival.
- You may be in an outdoor public place, but you must remain 6 feet away from anyone not in your immediate household, and you must wear a face covering. You may arrange curbside shopping or have food delivery.
- You cannot enter restaurants, bars, gyms, community centers, sporting facilities (i.e., ice rinks, gymnasiums, sports domes), office buildings, school or daycare. Do not participate in

any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals or other gatherings.

- This 14-day window can be shortened by receiving a negative result from molecular-based SARS-CoV2 test taken between 7-14 days after arrival into Alaska.

**What is considered my “immediate household” during strict social distancing?**

- Immediate household is considered people who live in the same house, apartment, hotel room, etc, as you.

**Will Travel Declaration Forms still be required? If so, will the process for submission change?**

- Travelers will still need to complete the Travel Declaration Form however, we are moving this to a statewide online Alaska Travel Portal at [www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com](http://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com)

**Has the Department of Law approved the updated travel mandate?**

- Yes, Department of Law has reviewed and approved the updated travel mandate.

## **Testing**

**Are non-resident children required to test 72-hours prior to arrival?**

- Children 10 and under are not required to test.

**What if an unknowing traveler planned to test in Alaska or received a test 5-days out or took the wrong type of test?**

- A non-resident that does not arrive with proof of a negative test taken within 72 hours of departure or proof of a molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 taken, but pending results will be able to receive a test for \$250 at the airport upon arrival.

**What happens if a traveler takes a test within 72 hours of departure but does not have results yet?**

- Travelers may arrive without results as long as they have proof of results taken within 72 hours of departure. They will need to quarantine until test results are returned and uploaded to the Alaska Travel Portal ([www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com](http://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com))

**What happens if a non-resident says they took a test within 72-hours but has no proof?**

- A non-resident that does not arrive with proof of a negative test taken within 72 hours of departure or proof of a molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 taken, but pending results will be able to receive a test for \$250 at the airport upon arrival.

**Will paying for a test at airports upon arrival be a viable option for non-residents?**

- Non-residents are able to take a test at the airport for \$250 per test and must quarantine until results are received.

**When is the cut off for the 72 hours? Is it prior to start of travel or upon arrival in Alaska?**

- A traveler must test within 72 hours prior to the departure time of the originating airport departure.

## **Alaska Residents**

**Will residents still have all the same options as before?**

- Alaska residents have the options to test 72 hours before departure to Alaska, testing at the airport or 14 day quarantine. There will no longer be a test 5 days prior to departure option.

**Will Alaska residents who are traveling still be able to choose to quarantine or will testing be mandated and enforced for those that have not already tested?**

- 14 day quarantine will still be available for Alaska residents.

**Will testing be available for resident intrastate travelers?**

Alaska residents traveling to an Alaskan community that suggests or requires testing prior to entry are eligible to receive traveler testing.

- There is no State-mandated requirement for intrastate travelers to test prior to travel or quarantine while waiting for these test results.
- Intrastate travelers need to check with the community they are traveling to, and must comply with all local requirements to mitigate the introduction of COVID-19 in remote communities.

**Moving to Alaska**

**What if a non-resident is *moving* to Alaska and arrives without a test?**

- An accepted proof of Alaska residency is an employment verification letter on employer letterhead or school verification letter for in person schooling stating traveler is moving to Alaska for employment or school.
- If the move is not employment related, the traveler will need to provide a negative result or proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure.

**What if a non-resident is traveling for the purpose of buying or selling a house?**

- If a traveler cannot provide an accepted proof of residency they will need to provide a negative result or proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure.
  - Accepted proof of Alaska residency for testing at airport:
    1. Alaska driver's license or state issued ID card.
    2. Active duty military ID card, active duty dependent ID card, DoD Common Access Card (CAD), or valid military orders.
    3. Federally recognized Alaska tribal identification card.
    4. Employment verification letter on employer letterhead or school verification letter for in person schooling stating traveler is moving to Alaska for employment or school.

**Hunting**

**If a non-resident hunter arrives with proof of test but no results, can they go to their hunting grounds for quarantine?**

- Yes, if you are waiting on your test results you may travel to your final destination and adhere to quarantine and/or strict social distancing requirements. They will need to be able to access wifi/cell service to receive their results while quarantining.

**If a non-resident hunter is flying in and going immediately out to the middle of nowhere (i.e. Brooks Range, Rex Trail, etc.), is this type of quarantining an acceptable alternative to testing?**

- No, 14 day quarantine is not an option for non-residents. If the non-resident has tested within 72 hours of departure to Alaska and is awaiting results, they can travel to their final destination and self-quarantine until they receive their test results. They will need to be able to access wifi/cell service to receive their results while quarantining.

**Prior to arrival**

**Have airlines been provided this information to ensure travelers are notified of the change prior to arriving at their departure airport to ensure they are fully informed and are prepared?**

- Yes, we are working closely with Alaska Airlines and other airlines to ensure messaging and communication is consistent.

**Will the airline evaluate and deny boarding?**

- No, screening will occur at the airport port of entry

**What if a medical condition prevents a nasal swab test?**

- If they are an Alaskan resident they can choose to quarantine. A non-resident will need to obtain an oral swab PCR test prior to travel.

**Will non-residents still receive a voucher for a second test 7-14 days after arrival?**

- Yes, non-residents will receive a voucher via the Alaska Traveler Portal if they indicate they will be in Alaska 7 days or longer. Travelers can return to the airport for a free follow up test within 7-14 days of arrival into Alaska.

**Will email proof of results still be accepted?**

- Yes.

**Will the 5-day test still be an option?**

- No

**Who will verify test results?**

- Screeners at the airport. Land and sea entries will be verified through the Alaska Traveler Portal.

**Is the second negative test being retained or eliminated under the new mandate?**

- Travelers can choose either strict social distancing for 14 days after arrival or they can be released from home seclusion early by taking a second test 7-14 days after arrival and receiving a negative result.

**Will vouchers handed out until the 11<sup>th</sup> of August be honored for the second test after the 11<sup>th</sup>?**

- Yes, paper vouchers handed out prior to the roll out of the Alaska Traveler Portal will be honored.

**For travelers that are unable to find a testing site that will provide asymptomatic testing within the 72 hour window, is there a waiver or other option to be able to travel?**

- Travelers unable to get testing prior to travel are encouraged to purchase an at home test kit. There are four FDA-approved home-collection COVID tests:
  - [Pixel system from LabCorp](#)
  - [Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit](#)
  - [Vault Health](#)
  - [Picture Genetics](#)
- Airport testing will be available to non-resident travelers for \$250 per test.

**What happens when someone traveling through Canada arrives in Alaska?**

- A non-resident traveler will need to arrive with either a negative test or proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure regardless of port of entry. Any traveler arriving into Alaska outside of the 10 airports providing screening and testing will need to complete the Travel Declaration Form and Self-Isolation Plan on the Alaska Travel Portal ([www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com](http://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com)) and upload test results to be reviewed by the State.

## **Critical infrastructure**

### **How does the new mandate for travelers affect critical infrastructure? Will they continue to follow their company's plan and be considered separately from other out-of-state travelers?**

Critical infrastructure will now be required to have a letter from their employer to show airport screeners that:

- ii. Identifies the employer and employee by name;
- iii. Details instructions on how the employee must travel to their job site in accordance with the employer's Community Workforce Protective Plan.
- iv. Confirms the traveler is following the employer's Community Workforce Protective Plan on file with the State that includes testing and/or quarantine provisions.

Requirements for Community Workforce Protective Plans remain the same.

### **What are the requirements for cargo flight crews?**

- Cargo flight crew will need a letter from their employer as stated above and process through screening at the airport.

### **Who will pay for testing of non-resident critical infrastructure travelers?**

- Employers will need to pay for testing of critical infrastructure travelers.

### **How does this affect military with orders to Alaska?**

- Testing will be available for anyone with an active duty military ID card, active duty dependent ID card, DoD Common Access Card (CAD), or valid military orders.

### **How does the mandate effect teachers traveling from out-of-state?**

- An accepted proof of Alaska residency is an employment verification letter on employer letterhead stating traveler is moving to Alaska for employment.

### **Will health contractors (Beacon, Capstone and others) still be testing non-resident Critical Infrastructure travelers?**

- If employers have set up contracts for critical infrastructure with contractors entirely separate from the State contract, then contractors may still test those critical infrastructure travelers. Employers are encouraged to set up setting for their employees.

### **Will critical infrastructure plans filed with the state remain in place?**

- Yes, critical infrastructure plans filed with the State will remain in place.

### **What if I have a plan approved with the state and it includes testing in the airport.**

- Please contact an occupational health contractor such as Beacon or Capstone who offer services for testing upon arrival.
- If a non-resident worker arrives and would like testing at the state of Alaska supported testing site they will be charged \$250

## **Higher Ed**

- Will non-resident students be exempted from testing?
  - Accepted proof of Alaska residency for testing at airport:
    - Alaska driver's license or state issued ID card.
    - Federally recognized Alaska tribal identification card.
    - Active duty military ID card, active duty dependent ID card, DoD Common Access Card (CAD), or valid military orders.
    - Employment verification letter or student verification letter on employer/school letterhead stating traveler is moving to Alaska for employment or schooling.

- Will non-resident students or faculty who travel during holiday breaks be subject to the non-resident 72-hour testing requirements?

Yes, non-resident students and faculty that do not establish residency after initial move to Alaska will need to return to Alaska with negative test results or proof of a test taken within 72 hours of departure. If a non-resident arrives without either of these they will be charged \$250 per test at the airport. For non-residents unable to obtain a pre-travel test, there are four FDA-approved home-collection COVID tests:

- [Pixel system from LabCorp](#)
- [Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit](#)
- [Vault Health](#)
- [Picture Genetics](#)