



September 23, 2021

DOT&PF Team:

For over 18 months now all of us have been asked, day after day, to “Keep Alaska Moving” as the pandemic continues to evolve. I want to thank all of you for continuing to find ways to do our jobs, while confronted with the challenges of COVID 19. Over the past few weeks, the State has seen a rapid and steady increase of COVID-19. Due to this increase, Governor Dunleavy has adopted crisis standards of care for the State of Alaska to assist our medical care system, which is quickly becoming overwhelmed.

Due to this decision, our Department will be shifting back to a teleworking posture to the maximum extent practical, while still maintaining a public facing presence and services. This new posture will begin on Monday, September 27. This will be very similar to the teleworking arrangements that we had in place in the fall of 2020. This action will help us slow the spread of the virus and contribute to the goal of keeping our medical care facilities open and able to treat Alaskans when and if they need assistance, from COVID-19 or any other illness or injury. For all of you that are able to telework, please work with your supervisors and division directors to determine the best course of action.

Many of us work in positions where teleworking isn't practical. In these positions, we should all make extra efforts to ensure we are working in the safest ways possible during this posture. We have many tools we have learned to use over the past 18 months. Let's use them. Make the most of technology with virtual meetings, minimize face to face meetings, if sick, stay home, and respect each other's differences. And don't forget, we have an updated workplace operating plan located here: <https://dot.alaska.gov/covid19info/wop/>

We are all in this together everyone. As much as anyone, I was really hoping we were seeing the end to the pandemic this past summer. Obviously, that is not the case. I can understand there may be many questions and concerns with this latest guidance. We are going to try something new in the spirit of leveraging technology, and have a statewide all staff meeting at 2:30pm on Friday, September 24 to review the latest information, and answer questions that you may have. Please be on the lookout for an email with more information on the MS Teams Live event, and a survey monkey in which you will be able to submit your questions in advance.

Sincerely,

Ryan Anderson  
Commissioner