



Bristol Bay Protocols for 2020 Salmon Season

To prioritize human health and safeguard our communities from the risk of catastrophic loss due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Bristol Bay Working Group supports the following protocols for 2020 operations of the commercial salmon fishing industry in Bristol Bay. Based on the COVID-19 virus information from the Center for Disease Control and the examples of the spread worldwide, the following are necessary measures for the health and safety of our region’s people and all who work in Bristol Bay. This is our unified message that we will be conveying to our State Government. In addition, please honor the restrictions outlined in local municipal and tribal ordinances.

Applies to: All ports of entry into Bristol Bay communities (air, sea, land, etc.)

Pre-Arrival Criteria (traveling into Bristol Bay communities) :

- All “Essential Critical Infrastructure” workers & businesses associated with the commercial fishery will need to demonstrate that they are participants within an Industry COVID-19 Health Response Plan.
- Certified Health Providers Physical Exam conducted within a maximum of 48 hours of commencing transportation to Bristol Bay. **Minimum criteria for approved physical exam: Negative COVID-19 Test**

Upon Arrival:

- Individuals will be transported (via Industry Health Response Plan designated transport) directly from airport to destination of quarantine and remain in controlled quarantine until a follow-up negative COVID -19 test is confirmed (*within time range determined by medical protocol*).
- Any individuals within the confines of a community are subject to two health screenings per week (criteria for this screening is still being developed).
- Anyone with a State of Alaska Identification Card or Driver's license with a home address in Bristol Bay will conform to SOA travel requirements and their fishing company’s Industry Health Response Plan.
- Post quarantine release, fishermen and seafood employees will abide by local municipal, tribal, & state ordinances and recommendations for healthy conduct and practices within the community.

Industry COVID-19 Health Response Plan will also include:

- Working with or contracting with approved health care providers for employees and fishermen pre-arrival & post-arrival screenings.
- Controlled transportation for employees and fishermen to quarantine locations.
- Logistical support services for employees and fishermen for quarantine period and post quarantine period.
- Weekly health screenings. *[to be defined by medical protocol]*
- In the event of COVID-related medical issues, industry is strongly encouraged to provide medical assistance to their employees and fishermen to supplement and support the *very limited capacity of local medical providers*.
 - If needed, industry will provide their own isolation facilities.
 - Industry will provide medical evacuation plans.

These protocols represent minimum elements which must be included in all Industry COVID-19 protocol plans to operate in Bristol Bay, effective immediately. Failure to comply by employees or fishermen will result in immediate termination of market and removal. Non-compliance by a company or business will result in significant consequences. As technology and conditions change, this protocol will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis, but no later than 5/01/2020.

The Bristol Bay Working Group is open to discussions with Industry on potential options for controlled quarantine scenarios and or private charter transport directly into the community of operation. Since commercial fishing is deemed by the federal government as an “Essential Critical Infrastructure,” we are committed to advocating in unison with the fishing industry for appropriate testing equipment and resources needed to meet these requirements.

We look forward to working with all sectors to ensure the health and safety of fishery participants and local communities is our first priority.