

Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release

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For Immediate Release

AVCP Encourages Everyone to “Stay Home” through Video PSA

Bethel, Alaska - The [Association of Village Council Presidents](#) (AVCP) released a video through Facebook, on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, from Vivian Korthuis, AVCP Chief Executive Officer, urging the region to “stay home” to “protect our Elders, our youth, our families, and our communities.”

In this short video, Korthuis describes (1) why we need to stay home and (2) what staying home means.

Korthuis explains that “We know that COVID-19 will reach our region eventually. But, if we stay home now, we can slow it down. By slowing it down, we will hopefully keep from overwhelming our local and state healthcare systems.”

She explains that staying home means: canceling gatherings like bingo and church services; limiting travel, both in and outside the region; going to the store only when it is necessary; and shopping for Elders.”

Korthuis hopes that by “staying home” and *practicing* social distancing, our people will slow the spread of the virus within the 48 AVCP-region communities, and our health care systems will be better able to assist those who require critical care. Korthuis closes with the statement: “This is a critical time, and what better way to spend it? *Stay at home.*”

Click [here](#) to view the 1 minute, 40 second video on Facebook.

For the health and safety of the region, we encourage tribes and tribal members to practice social distancing and to follow the recommendations of our sister organization, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, published regularly on its website (<https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/>).

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For additional information, please contact AVCP Director of Communications, Azara Mohammadi, at 907-543-7317 or email at communications@avcp.org.

AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.