

# Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release

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For Immediate Release

## **AVCP Supports Mandatory Testing and Quarantine Periods for Incoming Travelers to the City of Bethel**

Bethel, Alaska – In [a letter to members of the Bethel City Council](#), the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) expressed support for the proposed City of Bethel ordinance: *An Ordinance Adopting “The City of Bethel COVID-19 Rules and Procedures” which Adopt State of Alaska Travel Protocols for all Interstate and Intrastate non-essential Travel to the City*. This ordinance has been proposed by the regional healthcare provider, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC).

If adopted, the ordinance will require all persons arriving in Bethel, Alaska, by commercial air transportation, to either provide proof of a negative COVID test result, complete a COVID test and quarantine until results are received, or quarantine for 14 days. An exception is made for persons arriving for critical personal needs, as well as essential services and critical infrastructure.

Without roads connecting the 48 communities in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YK Delta) to each other or the rest of the State of Alaska, mandatory testing and quarantine periods for travelers into Bethel, Alaska, (as one of the busiest hub communities for travelers entering the YK Delta) will assist in contact tracing and the prevention of the further spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Our region’s limited healthcare capacity and transportation infrastructure means that community spread might overwhelm the capacity of YKHC, as well as the City of Bethel and our surrounding villages. Mandatory airport testing and quarantining will be a significant step in mitigating the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the City of Bethel, and the entire region.” says Vivian Korthuis, AVCP Chief Executive Officer.

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For additional information, please contact AVCP Director of Communications, Azara Mohammadi, at 907-544-1220 or email at [azaram@avcp.org](mailto:azaram@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*

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*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.*