



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Assembly Memorandum

No. AM 227-2021

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

1 **From: ACTING MAYOR**

2
3 **Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY FOR AN**
4 **EIGHTH EXTENSION OF THE DECLARATION OF CIVIL**
5 **EMERGENCY (COVID-19) ISSUED BY THE MAYOR OF THE**
6 **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ON MARCH 12, 2020.**
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8 An additional three-month extension of the Proclamation of Emergency (COVID-
9 19) issued March 12, 2020 and set to expire April 16, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. is
10 necessary as the public health danger posed by COVID-19 remains active and
11 the Municipality is experiencing widespread community transmission of the virus.
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13 As of April 9, 2021, the United States has experienced more than 31 million
14 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 560,000 deaths from the virus. The State
15 of Alaska accounts for 64,531 of those confirmed cases, and 313 deaths. The
16 Municipality, with the largest population center in the State, accounts for around
17 half of Alaska's confirmed cases and deaths. As of April 9, 2021, the Municipality
18 of Anchorage has experienced 28,508 confirmed cases and 164 deaths among
19 residents.
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21 Anchorage experienced a huge surge in cases in late November and December
22 of last year, and came perilously close to overwhelming its hospital system.
23 While Anchorage has not reached that same peak in cases, the number of
24 COVID-19 cases has increased in recent weeks and the potential for an
25 increasing surge in cases and subsequent spike in hospitalizations is very real.
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27 Cases remain in the high alert zone, and a combination of other emergency
28 orders currently in place, the Mask Mandate (EO-13v4) and the Make it a Safe
29 Spring order (EO-19), are central mitigation measures designed to keep case
30 counts from soaring as the economy remains open for business. Health officials
31 remain concerned about another spike in case counts from more relaxed
32 behavior, and from potential impacts of new more contagious strains of the virus.
33 The more contagious and dangerous strain originating in England has already
34 been identified in Anchorage, in addition to the Brazilian and South African
35 variants.
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37 For these reasons, an additional extension of Anchorage's emergency powers is
38 necessary. The threat of COVID-19 has not dissipated. Most Anchorage
39 residents remain unvaccinated – currently only about 25% of Anchorage

1 residents are fully vaccinated – and thus our community remains susceptible to
2 surges in infection that could overwhelm the hospital system if not swiftly
3 mitigated.

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5 Anchorage needs the ability to respond quickly as conditions in the community
6 change. Anchorage’s emergency orders have already proven effective at limiting
7 the spread of COVID-19 cases, and further emergency orders are not possible
8 without extending the emergency declaration.

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10 Emergency powers will also enable Anchorage to better facilitate the distribution
11 of the COVID-19 vaccines. Being able to vaccinate Anchorage’s residents as
12 quickly and efficiently as possible is vital to saving lives, containing the virus and
13 slowing further spread. While most of Anchorage’s residents are now eligible to
14 receive a vaccine, children under age 16 are not. Containing the spread of the
15 virus is critical to keeping children healthy and enabling the Anchorage School
16 District to remain open for in-person learning.

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18 The Administration is proposing an extension of the emergency declaration until
19 July 16, 2021, which is three months from the current expiration date of April 16.
20 The extension will allow time for the Municipality to plan for an exit from this
21 emergency posture.

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23 At this moment, there is no indication that COVID-19 will cease to be an
24 emergency before July 16, 2021, but if the emergency ends sooner, the
25 Assembly has the power to end a declaration of emergency (or an individual
26 emergency order or regulation) at any time under AMC 3.80.080.

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28 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**

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30 Prepared by: Kathryn R. Vogel, Municipal Attorney
31 Concur: Heather Harris, Director, Health Department
32 Concur: Christopher M. Schutte, Director,
33 Office of Economic and Community Development
34 Concur: Anna C. Henderson, Municipal Manager
35 Respectfully submitted: Austin Quinn-Davidson, Acting Mayor
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