

Enhanced Protective Measures for Seafood Processing Workers
Health Mandate 010 – Appendix 01
Issued: May 15, 2020

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Recent outbreaks of COVID-19 at food processing facilities in other States across the nation have caused loss of life among plant workers, significant impact to the food processing industry, and concern in communities that are home to processing plants. In response, the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have published interim guidance for [Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers](#). In light of these events, and with a growing scientific understanding of the virus which causes COVID-19, the State of Alaska is directing the following Enhanced Protective Measures for Seafood Processing Workers.

I. Applicability.

- a. This Appendix applies to all workers traveling into Alaska to work in a seafood processing plant, or onboard a processor or catcher-processor vessel.
 - i. Workers arriving to a shore-based processing plant will follow one of the three travel/quarantine options in Section III.
 - ii. Crewmembers arriving to a catcher-processor vessel which averages 5,000 pounds or less of processed product per day will follow the travel/quarantine guidance in Appendix 01 to Health Mandate 017.
 - iii. Crewmembers arriving to a processor vessel or a catcher-processor vessel which averages more than 5,000 pounds of processed product per day will follow the travel/quarantine guidance in Section IV.
- b. This Appendix does not apply to seafood processing workers who are permanent residents of the community that their plant is in, or have been living in the community and working at the processing plant or onboard their vessel for longer than 14 days prior to the issuance of this Appendix, unless transferring between plants or vessels (see Section I.f below).
- c. Workers that are currently within their quarantine period on the date of issuance of this Appendix must comply with Section III.c.iii.2 and receive a PCR test prior to being released from quarantine, if locally available at their quarantine location.
- d. Workers beginning monitored quarantine or travel after the date of issuance of this Appendix must comply with one of the options in Sections III or IV.
- e. Workers who have completed quarantine and are transferring from one shore-based location in Alaska to another must follow the guidelines in Section III.f below.
- f. Crewmembers who have completed quarantine and are transferring from one vessel to another must follow the guidelines in Section IV.c below.

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II. Definitions.

- a. Monitored Quarantine. This refers to a quarantine process that is monitored by the employer to ensure compliance and daily health checks. This must be done at a facility away from the workers' home and family, in an environment where the opportunity for social mixing is limited, either because the worker is quarantined alone or because others in their quarantine location are also following the same quarantine requirements.
 - i. Workers will be screened (see Section V below) prior to entering quarantine, and will have temperature checks twice a day.
 - ii. The preferred method is for workers to observe quarantine in single rooms with food delivered. If single rooms and food delivery are not available, employees will be assigned into Quarantine Groups (see Section II.e below).
 - iii. Quarantined workers may not leave their quarantine location except to receive medical treatment.
 - iv. Should fever or symptoms of COVID-19 develop, follow the Identification protocol in the seafood processing company's Community/Workforce Protective Plan. Seek medical treatment immediately if symptoms are suspected to be caused by COVID-19.
 - v. The employer will retain records of each worker's completion of controlled Quarantine, including the dates and location of quarantine, the names of other individuals quarantining at the same location for contact tracing purposes, and records of twice daily temperature readings, and daily observations of COVID-19 symptoms as identified by the CDC.
- b. Controlled Quarantine. This refers to a quarantine process that is controlled by the employer and monitored by the employee with appropriate guidance to ensure compliance and daily health checks. This may be completed at the employee's home, provided that appropriate safety measures are followed to limit social mixing.
- c. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Test. PCR tests are presently the most accurate tests for determining whether someone is currently infected with the novel coronavirus. Testing required under this Appendix can be accomplished with any available FDA-approved PCR method or method allowable under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization.
 - i. For coordination of additional testing beyond the company's organic capability, contact the Unified Command at (907) 428-7100 or 020_COVID-19@ak-prepared.com.
 - ii. The State of Alaska will continue to work cooperatively with the State of Washington and regional healthcare providers to ensure that adequate test

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supplies are available on a continuing basis to support testing. If the PCR testing resources necessary to comply with this Appendix become unavailable, seafood processing companies will only be required to comply with all non-testing related measures of this Appendix.

- d. **Safe Transit.** This a mode of transportation on which all employees have completed quarantine and testing requirements, and are not mixing with any populations whose quarantine and testing status is unknown. This can be a chartered aircraft, a ground vehicle, or a vessel. Social distancing and/or appropriate PPE will be used to isolate the travelers from the vehicle crew, particularly in chartered aircraft and taxis.
- e. **Movement Cohort.** This refers to a group of employees who are all in the same stage of their quarantine and testing process. Seafood processing companies will separate their traveling workers into Movement Cohorts of manageable size depending on their capacity and mode of travel, and stagger the arrival dates of cohorts over time to ensure that they do not overwhelm their screening, testing and monitored quarantine capacity.
- f. **Quarantine Group.** Any group of workers that are living or working in close proximity will be assigned to a Quarantine Group and complete the remainder of their quarantine and travel together. All workers sleeping in one room must be assigned to the same Quarantine Group. **Quarantine Groups must be kept as small as possible to prevent multiple workers from being exposed at once.** Should any member of the Quarantine Group develop symptoms or have a positive PCR test, all members of the Group must be isolated.

III. Travel and Quarantine Options for Shore-Based Processing Plant Workers. Seafood processing companies will make every effort to prevent a potentially infectious worker from exposing other workers or community members in their final destination community in Alaska. Companies will arrange for their arriving workers to follow one of the following three options:

- a. **Option 1: Pre-Travel Quarantine** – Workers will observe a 14-day monitored quarantine period outside of Alaska and receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to beginning travel to Alaska.
 - i. **Monitored Quarantine.** All workers will be screened (see Section V) prior to entering the quarantine facility. The employer will retain documentation of workers who have completed monitored quarantine.
 - ii. **Testing.** Upon completion of quarantine, all workers will receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to commencing travel to Alaska, or as close as possible to the end of their quarantine to receive results prior to commencing travel. Workers will retain documentation of test results.
 - iii. **Travel.** All workers will be screened (see Section V) for new symptoms prior to commencing travel. All travel to the processing facility in the

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destination community must be accomplished via Safe Transit. All travelers must wear a face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010 while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening). Onward travel may be accomplished onboard a processor or catcher-processor vessel.

- iv. Integration. Upon arrival in the destination community, workers may immediately enter the non-quarantine quarters and commence work, alongside other workers who have completed quarantine.
- b. **Option 2: Mid-Travel Quarantine;** Workers will travel to Alaska and observe a 14-day monitored quarantine period in temporary lodging in a large community that has a General Acute Care or Critical Access Hospital (*i.e.*, Anchorage or Juneau) and receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to beginning onward travel to their final destination community.
 - i. Travel. Travel to Alaska may be by non-Safe Transit. All workers in transit on commercial aircraft must wear a face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their quarantine facility. Workers in transit should carry documentation from their employer indicating that they are an essential Critical Infrastructure Worker as defined under State Health Mandates. Examples of such letters can be found [here](#).
 - ii. Monitored Quarantine. All workers will be screened (see Section V) prior to entering the quarantine facility. The employer will retain documentation of workers who have completed monitored quarantine.
 - iii. Testing. Upon completion of quarantine, all workers will receive a PCR test within 48 prior to commencing onward travel to their destination community or as close as possible to the end of their quarantine to receive results prior to commencing onward travel. Workers will retain documentation of test results.
 - iv. Onward Travel. All workers will be screened (see Section V) for new symptoms prior to commencing onward travel. All travel from the quarantine location to the processing facility in the destination community must be accomplished via Safe Transit. Workers should travel by Movement Cohort. All travelers must wear a cloth face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010 while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening).
 - v. Integration. Upon arrival in the destination community, workers may immediately enter the non-quarantine quarters and commence work, alongside other workers who have completed quarantine.

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- c. **Option 3: Post-Travel Quarantine:** Workers will travel to their final destination community in Alaska, and will be screened (see Section V) and receive a PCR test upon arrival at their destination community.
- i. Planning. If the following details are not already specified in their submitted Community/Workforce Protective Plan, seafood processing companies utilizing Option 3 will modify their plan to reflect:
1. How they will segregate their lodging facilities to separate workers under monitored quarantine from those that have completed quarantine.
 2. How they will provide dedicated facilities or adjust hours to maintain separation in dining, shower, and bathroom facilities.
 3. How they will conduct PCR testing for workers under monitored quarantine.
- ii. Travel. Travel to the destination community may be by non-Safe Transit. All workers in transit on commercial aircraft must wear a face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their quarantine facility. Arriving workers must proceed directly to their designated quarantine location, must practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and transport to the self-quarantine location. Workers in transit should carry documentation from their employer indicating that they are an essential Critical Infrastructure Worker as defined under State Health Mandates. Examples of such letters can be found [here](#).
- iii. Monitored Quarantine.
1. Upon arrival at their final destination community, workers will be assigned to lodging in their quarantine facility and will be assigned into Quarantine Groups per Section II.e above. If possible, arriving workers will quarantine in single rooms. If single rooms are not available, all workers sleeping together in a room will be in the same Quarantine Group.
 2. **Arriving workers are not permitted to work during their 14-day quarantine period, *unless* their specific task can be conducted while maintaining six-foot social distancing measures, or using physical barriers and PPE to separate workers from all other workers outside of their Quarantine Group.**

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3. Quarantined workers must wear a face covering at all times when outside of their assigned sleeping quarters, except when eating and performing personal hygiene.
 4. Quarantine Groups must maintain six-foot social distancing measures from all workers outside of their Quarantine Group.
 5. Common spaces must be cleaned between use by different Quarantine Groups or by workers who have completed quarantine.
 6. If a new worker joins a Quarantine Group, the 14-day clock will re-start for the entire Quarantine Group.
 7. To the greatest extent possible, multiple Quarantine Groups should not use shower or toilet facilities at the same time, and bathrooms should be disinfected at least twice per day.
 8. To the greatest extent possible, multiple travel cohorts should not use dining facilities at the same time. Six-foot social distancing measures must be maintained between Quarantine Groups in dining facilities.
- iv. Testing. All arriving workers must receive a PCR test within 48 hours of arrival at their destination community, preferably prior to entering their monitored quarantine lodging. The initial test may be conducted in route to their destination community. Depending upon the local availability of testing capacity, workers should receive a PCR test 6 days into their quarantine period, and within 48 hours before being released from quarantine. The employer will retain documentation of all test results.
- d. Each employer will be responsible for appropriately isolating any employee with a positive PCR test result, ensuring that the employee has access to care and will be responsible for arranging transport to a hospital, if needed.
- e. Workers who have completed quarantine and have been working in one location that need to transfer to another location must follow the following guidelines:
- i. All travel from the one location to the processing facility in the destination community should be accomplished via Safe Transit.
 - ii. If Safe Transit is not available and transferring workers are required to be in close contact (within six feet for longer than ten minutes) with people whose quarantine status is not known, transferring workers will have to repeat monitored quarantine upon arrival at the new location, and should receive PCR tests six days into their quarantine period, and within 48 hours before being released from quarantine.

IV. Travel and Quarantine Options for Processor Vessel Crewmembers. Seafood processing vessels will make every effort to prevent a potentially infectious crewmember

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from exposing other crewmembers or community members in their destination port in Alaska.

- a. **Pre-Season Quarantine:** The preferred method of quarantine for processor and catcher-processor vessels is for the entire vessel crew to observe controlled quarantine and testing in the Lower 48 prior to boarding the vessel and sail as a Movement Cohort with the vessel as a means of Safe Transit. All crewmembers will be screened (see Section V) for new symptoms prior to boarding. This is the same as Option 1 above, with a controlled monitored quarantine. If this is not possible, vessel crews may use the following option to quarantine in transit:
 - i. **Option 4: Quarantine at Sea.** All crewmembers must be tested within 48 hours prior to boarding the vessel and be screened (see Section V) for new symptoms prior to boarding. The quarantine period will start upon departure from the last out-of-State port. The vessel may not have face-to-face interactions with other vessel crews or shore-based personnel until all crewmembers on board have completed their quarantine period, which will be documented in the ship's log.
 1. Quarantined crewmembers must wear a face covering at all times when outside of their assigned cabin, except when eating and performing personal hygiene.
 2. All crewmembers sharing a cabin will be assigned to the same Quarantine Group.
 3. Quarantine Groups must maintain 6 foot social distancing measures from all crewmembers outside of their Quarantine Group.
 4. To the greatest extent possible, dedicated galley and hygiene times should be established to maintain separation between Quarantine Groups.
- b. **Mid-Season Crew Changes** – For crewmembers who must join the vessel after the rest of the crew has completed quarantine, companies will arrange for their arriving workers to follow one of the following two options:
 - i. **Option 5: Pre-Travel Quarantine for Crewmembers.** Crewmembers will observe a 14-day controlled quarantine period outside of Alaska and receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to beginning travel to Alaska.
 1. Controlled quarantine. Prior to beginning quarantine, crewmembers will be screened (see Section V) by the employer or a designated medical provider. Crewmembers will be educated by the employers on the requirements for controlled quarantine. The employer will retain records demonstrating each crewmember's compliance with the controlled quarantine. Each

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- worker must sign an affidavit verifying the accuracy of the quarantine documentation.
2. Testing. Upon completion of quarantine, all crewmembers will receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to commencing travel to Alaska, or as close as possible to the end of their quarantine to receive results prior to commencing travel. Workers will retain documentation of test results.
 3. Arriving crewmembers who have completed controlled quarantine must proceed directly to their vessel, must practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and the vessel. In the event of either delay in transit or that their vessel is unavailable for boarding when they arrive, crewmembers shall be transported to a hotel or other accommodation where they will self-quarantine until they are able to continue travel or board their vessel.
- ii. **Option 6: Post-Travel Quarantine for Crewmembers.** Crewmembers will observe a 14-day quarantine period on shore at their destination port and receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to boarding the vessel.
1. Arriving crewmembers quarantining on shore must proceed directly to their designated quarantine location, must practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and may not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and transport to the self-quarantine location.
 2. Monitored or self-quarantine. To the greatest extent possible, quarantine for arriving crewmembers will be monitored by the employer. All crewmembers should be screened (see Section V) prior to entering the quarantine facility. The employer will retain documentation of workers who have completed monitored quarantine. If crewmembers must self-quarantine before the vessel arrives, employers will require crewmembers to sign an affidavit stating that they have not broken self-quarantine guidance.
 3. Testing. All crewmembers will receive a PCR test within 48 hours prior to boarding the vessel, or as close as possible to receive results prior to boarding. Crewmembers will retain documentation of test results.
- iii. Travel to the destination port may be by non-Safe Transit. All crewmembers in transit on commercial aircraft must wear a face covering that meets the recommendations contained in Health Alert 010. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily

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- removed for security screening), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their quarantine facility or vessel.
- iv. Crewmembers in transit should carry documentation from their employer indicating that they are an essential Critical Infrastructure Worker as defined under State Health Mandates. Examples of such letters can be found [here](#).
 - v. Boarding. All crewmembers will be screened (see Section V) for new symptoms prior to boarding.
- c. **Cross-decking.** Crewmembers transferring from one vessel to another vessel after completing quarantine should do so via Safe Transit. If Safe Transit is not available and transferring crewmembers are required to be in close contact (within six feet for longer than ten minutes) with people whose quarantine status is not known, transferring crewmembers will have to repeat quarantine and testing on shore prior to joining the new vessel.
- V. **Screening of Personnel.** All workers will be screened upon arrival to the quarantine location, using the following procedures or an equivalent medically vetted procedure. Seafood processing companies must arrange for dedicated spaces to conduct private, individual arrival screening in a space that can be disinfected should an arriving worker fail the screening. Arrival screening will include all of the following:
- a. Verbal Screening Questions
 - i. Have you experienced any cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, sore throat, unusual fatigue or symptoms of acute respiratory illness in the last 72 hours?
 - ii. Have you experienced a fever (100.4° F [38° C] or greater using an oral thermometer) within the last 72 hours?
 - iii. Have you experienced signs of a fever such as chills, aches and pains, etc., within the last 72 hours?
 - iv. In the past 14 days, have you traveled in an area or country with widespread COVID-19 transmission without practicing social distancing?
 - v. Have you had contact within the past 14 days with a lab-confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case patient? (Contact defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (10 minutes) or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case).
 - b. Physical Screening
 - i. Each worker should demonstrate a measured temperature < 100.4° F [38° C]. (This reference is for oral temperature, a forehead (temporal) scanner is usually 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) lower than an oral temperature. An ear (tympanic) temperature is 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) higher than an oral temperature.)

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- ii. Anyone performing a physical screening should wear appropriate PPE. If PPE is not available, the worker may take their own temperature.
- c. Each worker must be free of fever or respiratory symptoms. A possible exception would be if worker has mild symptoms that are clearly attributable to another source (e.g., allergies).
- d. If a worker fails verbal or physical screening, has positive results to a PCR test, or is displaying viral symptoms they will not be allowed to enter the quarantine location, and must be immediately isolated.

VI. Working Conditions.

- a. Seafood processing companies will review the interim guidance for [Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers](#) provided by the CDC and OSHA. To the greatest extent possible, seafood processing companies will enact the recommended protective measures that are appropriate and suitable for their processing plant or vessel.
- b. During processing work, a clear face shield may be worn as PPE in lieu of a cloth face covering, in order to facilitate communication between workers.

VII. Waivers. Seafood processing companies that cannot meet the requirements of this Appendix may request a waiver to specific elements by re-submitting their Community/Workforce Protective Plan and detailing a proposed alternate procedure or safety measure. Those proposals will not be considered approved until the proposal has been reviewed by the Unified Command medical staff and the company has received written approval from DHSS to use the alternate procedure.

This Appendix supersedes the travel, screening, and self-quarantine procedures for all shore-based processing plant Community/Workforce Protective Plans. All other procedures in previously finalized Community/Workforce Protective Plans remain in effect.

Vessels will follow this Appendix for travel, screening, and self-quarantine procedures, and all other procedures in Health Mandate 017 or their previously finalized fleet or association Protective Plan.