

## University of Alaska System Office

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UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

# University of Alaska COVID-19 policy guidance Travel Restrictions

*Updated 6/18/2020 – Replaces all previous versions*

All university employees must follow university guidance, as well as federal, state and local public health mandates and restrictions, whichever is most restrictive. University policies generally will be more restrictive than state and local mandates because of the unique combination of risk factors facing the university.

## I. Official travel

- A. **In-state travel.** Travel within Alaska for university business is allowed in the following circumstances, with the approval of the President, the appropriate Chancellor, or a UA official to whom the President or Chancellor has delegated authority in writing:
1. **Communities on the road system or Alaska Marine Highway system:** Travel must be to and from road system or marine highway communities and must conform to the requirements for such travel under [Alaska Health Mandate 18](#).
  2. **Travel off the road system or Alaska Marine Highway system:** Travel must be in support of critical infrastructure activities, as defined in the university's [critical infrastructure work policy](#) and in the following circumstances:
    - a. The travel is to uninhabited research areas, originating from communities on the road system or Alaska Marine Highway system, and only to conduct research that cannot be performed remotely.
    - b. For travel to communities off the road system or Alaska Marine Highway System, the requesting department must propose a plan to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid endangering lives in the community(ies). Such a plan must be approved by the relevant chancellor or the president, and must be sent to the [UA System IMT Director](#) or institution IMT director for submission to the State of Alaska via [akcovidplan@ak-prepared.com](mailto:akcovidplan@ak-prepared.com) (cc'ing the [UA System IMT Director](#)). The requesting department must consult with the governing body of the destination community(ies) on any travel restrictions applicable therein, and report on that consultation and incorporate the appropriate safeguards or restrictions as part of the plan.

- B. Travel outside Alaska and inside the U.S.** Interstate travel is discouraged, and should be postponed or cancelled whenever practicable. Interstate travel can be approved by the President or particular Chancellor for critical infrastructure purposes, including to comply with inflexible contractual or research grant commitments or similar necessities. This authority is not to be delegated below the level of Vice-President, Vice-Chancellor or Provost. Travel to U.S. destinations outside Alaska for university business will be allowed only under the following conditions:
1. UA employees must research and be prepared to comply with the travel restrictions in the destination states/municipalities.
  2. Upon re-entry into the State of Alaska, travelers must comply with one of the following requirements of [Health Mandate 10.1](#):
    - a. the 14-day self-quarantine period; or
    - b. arranging to obtain a molecular-based COVID-19 test promptly upon arrival into Alaska, self-quarantining while awaiting the test results. Information on testing is available at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/testing.aspx>.
      - i. Those with positive test results must not come onto campus until medically cleared.
      - ii. Those with negative test results are to arrange for a second test, to be administered within 7-14 days after arrival. While strict self-quarantine is not required during this period, and individuals can come onto campus, individuals should minimize interactions while awaiting the results of the second test.
    - c. For new hires coming into the state, or employees traveling outside the state for more than five days, they may avoid the self-quarantine periods by obtaining negative results from a recent COVID-19 test administered shortly before their departure for Alaska. Tests administered more than five days (120 hours) prior to departure for Alaska are not recent. Tests administered between three days (72 hours) and five days (120 hours) prior to departure for Alaska must be followed up by a second test promptly upon arrival in Alaska. Tests administered within three days (72 hours) prior to departure to Alaska must be followed up by a second test at some point within two weeks following arrival. Travelers relying on negative results from a pre-travel test need not self-quarantine, but are to minimize interactions until the latest of (1) the second test results coming back negative, or (2) the expiration of 14 days after arrival, or (3) their departure from Alaska.
  3. During any self-quarantine periods, employees can work from home or take leave, in accordance with UA HR policies. During any “minimize interactions” periods, employees can work from home, take leave in accordance with UA HR policies, or with supervisor approval can work on campus if the work setting does not entail more than minimal in-person interactions with others, social distancing is rigorously practiced, and face covering protocols as mandated by the relevant Chancellor are adhered to.
  4. In the rare case that a department deems travel unavoidably necessary but the above

requirements cannot be met, that department must propose a plan, in advance, to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger lives in the campus or surrounding communities. Such a plan must be approved by the relevant chancellor or the president, and must be sent to the [UA System IMT Director](#) or institution IMT director for submission to the State of Alaska via [akcovidplan@ak-prepared.com](mailto:akcovidplan@ak-prepared.com) (cc'ing the [UA System IMT Director](#)).

- C. **International travel.** International travel remains prohibited unless approved by the President.<sup>1</sup> Such travel will not be approved unless:
1. All the requirements for interstate travel are met, as above; and
  2. The department making the travel request submits a plan documenting why the travel is necessary to the critical infrastructure of the University, providing information on the state of the pandemic in any destination(s), and detailing special arrangements being made to minimize the risk of infection to the traveler and to the traveler's home and work communities upon return. Upon the President's approval, the plan will be submitted by the [UA System IMT Director](#) to the State of Alaska via [akcovidplan@ak-prepared.com](mailto:akcovidplan@ak-prepared.com).

## II. **Personal travel**

1. University employees and students are encouraged to check local, state, national and international travel restrictions prior to traveling. You may be subject to applicable university campus entry restrictions and/or state restrictions when you return.

## III. **Definitions.** In this policy,

- A. "Self-quarantine" means staying in your residence, separated from all other persons except immediate household members, going out only for medical care, and using contact-free delivery methods to obtain all necessary household goods and supplies.
- B. "Minimizing interactions" means limiting your trips outside your residence to primarily outdoor areas; using curbside delivery and take-out services; rather than dining in within restaurants; not entering indoor attractions (dine-in restaurants, museums, theatres, gymnasias, pools, etc.); maintaining 6-foot social distancing; and wearing face coverings whenever in proximity to non-household members.

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<sup>1</sup> As of June 18, 2020, the CDC and Department of State recommendations discourage all non-essential international travel. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-global>