

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Governor Mike Dunleavy
3rd Floor, State Capitol
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

<Delivered Electronically>

August 25, 2021

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

We are writing to request that you take immediate action to reduce the risk of COVID exposure in state workplaces with implementation of a mask requirement in common areas, areas used by the public, and shared workspaces. In addition, we urge you to work with public employee unions to establish vaccine incentives for state workers. The Delta variant is far more transmissible than previous COVID variants, and makes implementation of basic workplace safety standards extremely urgent.

Many of Alaska's hospitals are at capacity for treatment of COVID complications, meaning that state employees who contract COVID at work may be at risk of long-term health effects or death, particularly if they are unvaccinated. Many other states, localities, and private sector employers already are using a combination of mask requirements and vaccine incentives to reduce risk of COVID transmission on the job, and the state should be a leader in public health on its own job sites.

Many state employees are front line workers directly serving the public. Other state employees must by nature of their job interact with other state employees. State operations must continue and are more likely to continue uninterrupted with proper public health guidelines in place. Implementation of masking is the least we can do to protect our state employees and ensure the public can access essential state services. Achieving higher vaccination rates reduces both likelihood of transmission and severity of infection in the event infection does occur.

Thank you for your consideration,

Handwritten signature of Tiffany Zulkosky in blue ink.

Representative Tiffany Zulkosky
Co-Chair, Health & Social Services Committee

Handwritten signature of Liz Snyder in blue ink.

Representative Liz Snyder
Co-Chair, Health & Social Services Committee

Handwritten signature of Ivy Spohnholz in blue ink.

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Co-Chair, Labor & Commerce Committee

Handwritten signature of Zack Fields in blue ink.

Representative Zack Fields
Co-Chair, Labor & Commerce Committee

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins in blue ink.

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair, State Affairs Committee