



Dear Community Members,

We want to express our gratitude to Sitka residents for their continued COVID-19 mitigation measures and practices during the holiday season. Our community has been resilient and adapted quickly, implementing preventative safety measures to limit community transmission.

This month, we beg for your continued cooperation by masking when and where appropriate, practicing proper social distancing, limiting gatherings, and ensuring proper hand hygiene. Holiday shopping, something we all look forward to, is vital to our small-town business's survival. We want to do everything possible to ensure that our businesses can flourish during the holiday season, restaurants can remain open, and children can get back to school.

The Sitka COVID-19 Unified Command is urging our citizens to help flatten our recent COVID case surge by wearing a mask and social distancing during shopping, using takeout, curbside pickup, and delivery services, practicing good hand hygiene, and celebrating the holidays in a responsible and creative manner. Look for COVID Conscious Businesses and support them in their efforts to provide safe shopping and dining options.

Unfortunately, this is the year that some traditions need to be paused or modified. We encourage you to celebrate the holidays with only those who live in your household and limit travel as much as possible. Please be aware of how this virus can spread rapidly within group settings and understand the potential impacts of visiting friends, neighbors and family. Once we are on the other side of this pandemic, we will be thankful for the hard choices we made this year. On behalf of the Unified Command, we greatly appreciate your support as we continue to move forward through this pandemic.

We look forward to the time when this pandemic is behind us; until then, please wear your mask, maintain your social distance, and stay home if you are ill.

Sincerely,

Sitka COVID-19 Unified Command

Mr. John Leach, CBS City Administrator and Incident Commander

Dr. Elliot Bruhl, M.D., SEARHC CMO and Incident Commander

Craig Warren, CBS Fire Chief and Emergency Operations Manager

Denise Ewing, Sitka Public Health Nurse III

Lisa Gassman, Sitka Tribe of Alaska

John Holst, Sitka School District Superintendent

Janelle Vanasse, Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent