



ATIA Statement on COVID-19

The situation surrounding COVID-19 is deeply concerning to the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), the state's leading membership association for Alaska's travel industry. ATIA's top priority, along with our member businesses, continues to be the health of our visitors and Alaska residents.

ATIA is closely monitoring updates and travel advisories, including the recent recommendation suggesting travelers, especially those with underlying health issues, defer cruise ship travel. Alaska's cruise partners are working with the Alaska State Department of Health and Social Services (DHHS) and are focused on preparedness by taking steps to ensure the health of Alaskans and the health and safety of cruise passengers to Alaska.

We urge individual travelers to remain diligent and make your decisions based on the best available information. We encourage visitors to look to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance on healthy travel habits, including washing hands, covering coughs, and calling your health provider first if you don't feel well.

ATIA is working with Alaska Governor Dunleavy, state and local health officials, and federal agencies to support Alaska residents and communities throughout this rapidly evolving situation. ATIA stands ready to support Alaska tourism business owners, who are at the heart of our state's travel industry.

Alaska is a destination like no other, and more than 1.3 million people traveled to Alaska by cruise ship in 2019. The cruise industry supports approximately 2,175 businesses throughout the state that provide tours, activities, and services to the cruise lines and their passengers. Alaska's tourism industry overall supports 1 in 10 Alaska jobs and raises over \$88 million toward local and regional economies and over \$125 million to the state. Tourism generates more than \$4.5 billion in economic impact for Alaska, supporting our businesses, families, and communities.

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