

Episcopal Diocese of Alaska
COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for Travel to Rural Villages and Off-Road System Communities
“Reimbursement for Ministerial Services in Communities”
Revised and Effective June 11, 2021

This Mitigation Plan revision follows guidelines per “**Alaska Response and Recovery Health Advisory No 3 Intrastate Travel**”.

Any ordained minister or authorized traveler of the Diocese of Alaska seeking reimbursement or other compensation for travel to a rural community or village to provide pastoral or sacramental services must adhere to the following COVID-19 Mitigation protocols:

1. Anyone who is currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus or is COVID-19 symptomatic MUST NOT travel until they are cleared from isolation by a medical professional.
2. Travelers must receive prior Approval and Authorization to travel to the community from the Village or Tribal Council or appropriate local governing body and must adhere to the community guidelines and requirements for travel.
3. Travelers shall follow the local church’s/congregation’s mitigation plan and practice.
4. Fully-vaccinated travelers do not need to wear a face covering or social distance, unless stated by local/tribal governments, airline travel policies and/or the church’s mitigation plan and practice.
5. If the traveler is asked to provide proof of vaccination and chooses or is unable to provide proof, they shall be treated as non-vaccinated and must follow non-vaccinated guidance.
6. Non-vaccinated travelers must
 - a. adhere to wearing face coverings in public when indoors.
 - i. Unless clearly stated by local community guidelines and requirements.
 - b. practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from others.
 - i. Unless clearly stated by local community guidelines and requirements.
7. Traveler shall wash or sanitize hands frequently
8. The minister must follow the guidelines for Holy Communion described in the Diocese of Alaska COVID-19 Public Worship and COVID-19 Mitigation Plans for Congregations.
 - a. *“During this period of transition, Communion in one kind—the Bread only will continue until we are ready to return to the Common Cup.”*
9. The traveler must follow all additional local requirements or COVID-19 protocols.