



## **CITY OF BETHEL**

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### **COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Taxi Guidelines - City of Bethel (Authority: Emergency Ordinance #20-09)**

**New Fare: \$5 per ride for individual or family/friend group + \$1/minute.**

**Effective Dates: April 1 – 30, 2020. City may change directive at any time.**

The State of Alaska has designated taxicabs as critical public transportation infrastructure with a special responsibility to operate during the statewide COVID-19 public health emergency. The City Council has also adopted an emergency ordinance granting the City Manager broad discretion to manage the crisis in the best interests of the public health and welfare. Accordingly, the City of Bethel is working closely with the taxi companies to support safe and reliable taxi service within the City during this public health crisis. Following these guidelines will help reduce the risk of COVID-transmission, but will not eliminate it.

The use of taxicabs may bring individuals in close contact with infected individuals. To reduce risk, the City is temporarily eliminating the “shared ride” system and implementing the “single or known group ride” system, like Anchorage employs. The goal is to transport one individual or selected group at a time.

The City of Bethel has provided taxi companies with CDC guidance on the COVID-19 virus.

#### **Guidelines for Taxi operations:**

1. No one sits in the front seat with driver!
2. CDC poster on COVID-19 transmission shall be posted inside taxi.
3. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer and sani-wipes will be available for use inside cab.
4. Drivers will clean high-contact surfaces (e.g., door handles) after each trip.
5. Drivers shall use alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently, including after touching money or high-contact surfaces, and will wash hands often with soap.
6. Taxi drivers will not transport patients who complain of or display signs of respiratory infection. They will refer those people to the ambulance.
7. Drivers may refuse service to any passenger who they believe to be sick.
8. Drivers shall not work, if exhibiting signs of illness (fever 100.4+, cough, shortness of breath) or if they feel generally unwell.
9. Open taxi windows, when possible.
10. Physical contact between passengers and drivers shall be minimized at all times.
11. Physical distance between passengers and drivers shall be maximized at all times. (e.g., passengers will sit as far back as possible).