



SKAGWAY CHAMBER NEWS FEBRUARY 2021



Skagway Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 194, Skagway, AK 99840 Tel: 907.983.1898 Fax: 907.983.2031

chamber@aptalaska.net www.skagwaychamber.org

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

STANDARD * Alaska Geographic * Alaska Seaplanes * Klothes Rush * Mattingly Investments
* Chilkat River Adventures * Alyeska Realty
***2ND BUSINESS** ** Grizzly's/Radio Shack
SPONSOR* Hunz & Hunz

The Skagway Chamber of Commerce invites you to become a part of an exciting and rewarding organization.
Visit our Web site for more information www.skagwaychamber.org/joinus.html

New International Travel Update from the CDC

Effective January 26, 2021, the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) will require all air passengers arriving to the U.S. from a foreign country get tested for COVID-19 infection no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to provide proof of the negative result (or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19) to the airline before boarding the flight. The requirement has been placed on the airline to screen passengers prior to boarding to ensure that they meet this requirement.

Alaska still requires molecular-based tests for visitors and residents.

While an antigen test meets CDC requirements, Alaska requires a **molecular based test** and all travelers arriving from international or domestic destinations remain subject to State of Alaska testing requirements outlined in [Health Order No. 6](#) (International and Interstate Travel), including the requirement to obtain a molecular-based test 72 hours before departure and upload negative result into the [Alaska Travel Portal](#).

Per the CDC, visitors arriving to the U.S. via one or more connecting flights, must test in the 3 days before the first flight, but only if connecting flights are booked as a single passenger record with a final destination in the U.S. and each connection (layover) is no longer than 24 hours. If the connecting flight to the U.S. was booked separately or a connection lasts longer than 24 hours, international visitors must get tested within the 3 days before the flight that arrives in the U.S. See the CDC's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

ATIA will continue to monitor changes to CDC guidelines.

Testing on Arrival

While COVID-19 vaccines are becoming more accessible, we encourage you to remind your teams and visitors to continue to help reduce the spread of the virus by following Alaska travel mandates and health practices.

Submit a Travel Declaration and Self-Isolation Plan through the [Alaska Traveler Declaration Portal](#), AND

- Arrive with proof of a qualifying negative COVID-19 test.
- Visitors can purchase a COVID-19 test for \$250 upon arrival in Alaska and must self-quarantine until results arrive.
- Residents can receive a COVID-19 test at no cost at the airport and must self-quarantine until results arrive OR self-quarantine for 14 days.

Our goal is to keep our teams, visitors, and communities safe. Together, we can help reduce transmission of COVID-19 in Alaska. Thank you!



SBA and Treasury Announce PPP Re-Opening; Issue New Guidance

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#), in consultation with the Treasury Department, announced today that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act.

This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses through March 31, 2021, and by allowing certain existing PPP borrowers to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

“The historically successful Paycheck Protection Program served as an economic lifeline to millions of small businesses and their employees when they needed it most,” said Administrator Jovita Carranza. “Today’s guidance builds on the success of the program and adapts to the changing needs of small business owners by providing targeted relief and a simpler forgiveness process to ensure their path to recovery.”

“The Paycheck Protection Program has successfully provided 5.2 million loans worth \$525 billion to America’s small businesses, supporting more than 51 million jobs,” said Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin. “This updated guidance enhances the PPP’s targeted relief to small businesses most impacted by COVID-19. We are committed to implementing this round of PPP quickly to continue supporting American small businesses and their workers.”

Key PPP updates include:

- PPP borrowers can set their PPP loan’s covered period to be any length between 8 and 24 weeks to best meet their business needs;

- PPP loans will cover additional expenses, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures;

- The Program’s eligibility is expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, direct marketing organizations, among other types of organizations;

- The PPP provides greater flexibility for seasonal employees;

- Certain existing PPP borrowers can request to modify their First Draw PPP Loan amount; and

- Certain existing PPP borrowers are now eligible to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;

- Has no more than 300 employees; and

- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

The new guidance released includes:

[PPP Guidance from SBA Administrator Carranza on Accessing Capital for Minority, Underserved, Veteran, and Women-owned Business Concerns](#);

[Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program as Amended by Economic Aid Act](#); and

[Interim Final Rule on Second Draw PPP Loans](#).

For more information on SBA’s assistance to small businesses, visit sba.gov/ppp or treasury.gov/cares.



UPDATE YOUR RATE

Rates for 2021 have been issued! They were mailed in early December. Make sure you have updated your accounting software with the new rate and/or ensure you accountant, payroll provider or employers who provide you with supplemental workers have your new rate.

This will prevent you from not paying enough and causing interest to accumulate. If you have questions regarding your rate notice, contact the Tax Central

Office by emailing us at esd.tax@alaska.gov, or by phone: (907) 465-2757 or (888) 44803527 (toll free).

How your UI tax rate is calculated

One of the objectives of the ES Tax Unit is to keep the Alaska UI Trust Fund solvent in order to pay benefits to eligible claimants. Alaska maintains a reserve rate to meet the benefit demands of a sever economic recession while also keeping the system from being over funded.

To maintain solvency, the financing system must cover the cost of the benefits being paid. The level of employer and employee contributions is based on the Average Benefit Cost Rate, the relationship between benefit costs and the total payroll of taxable employers. Data for multiple years is used in the calculation of the Benefit Cost Rate, thereby "smoothing out" sudden changes to the system and making the rate somewhat counter-cyclical. Counter cyclical financing allows the fund to weather and economic slump while resisting sudden changes in contribution rates during a period of high benefit demands thus helping stabilize the economy.

Minimize COVID-19's impact on your tax rates

If your business' payroll had unexpected decreases or increases due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to use the Emergency Option Form to reduce payroll declines from quarter to quarter. Examples of COVID-19 unexpected payroll changes are:

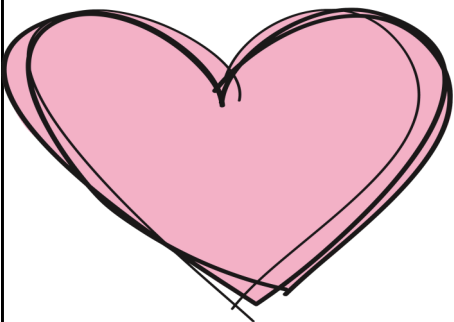
- *an increase in wages due to providing essential services,
- *decreases from layoffs or a reduction in hours worked, OR
- *unpaid leave for mandatory self Imposed quarantine, etc.

The Emergency Option Form is available at: labor.alaska.gov/estax/forms/toc_forms.htm



THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME. We, too, have suffered because of COVID-19 and the last year of the pandemic. Many of our members have not been able to pay for their memberships, which we totally understand, however, because we have not been able to have our annual Ducky Derby and the lack of funds from memberships affected by the lack of a season in 2020, we are doing what we can to help the Skagway Chamber of Commerce survive. We have no idea what the future holds, as so much is still in limbo, but we want you to ALL survive this challenging time. We are here for you. If we can help, we will.



- *****
- 2021 DIRECTORS & STAFF**
- DIRECTOR:**
 Jackie Schaefer, President
 P.O. Box 297 983.2427
jjschaefer2009@gmail.com
- DIRECTOR:** Sarah Williamson,
 Treasurer
 P. O . Box 1083
lucyskagway@gmail.com
 734-306-3070
- DIRECTOR:**
 Lea Mauldin, Vice President
 P.O. Box 567
lmauldin@aptalaska.net
- DIRECTOR:** Vanessa Flynn
 P.O. Box 285 907-612-0480
vsigns71akskag@yahoo.com
- DIRECTOR:** JoAnn Arnold
 P.O. Box 114
JoAnnGA@yahoo.com
 907-612-0298
- DIRECTOR:** Georgia Cochran
 706-318-7702
Rambo_31_02@yahoo.com
- DIRECTOR:** Jennifer Castle
 PO Box 89
akjenc@hotmail.com
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:**
 Blaine Mero
 P.O. Box 194 983-1898
chamber@aptalaska.net
- *****

FEBRUARY EVENTS

VALENTINES DAY— February 14th.

Share the love and shop LOCAL



P.O. Box 194
7th and State St.
Skagway, AK 99840

Phone: 907.983.1898
Fax: 907.983.2031

E-mail: chamber@aptalaska.net

Web Site:
www.skagwaychamber.org

CHILKOOT-GATEWAY INSURANCE AGENCY

P.O. BOX 456 SKAGWAY, ALASKA 99840 PHONE 907-983-2240 FAX 907-983-2969

INSURANCE—BONDS

Continuing the 57-year tradition of a local independent agent
Serving the people of Skagway.



Debbie L. Ackerman, CISR
Agent
cgiaskagway@aol.com