

To: Economic Stabilization Task Force

From: Bruce Botelho

Date: April 15, 2020

Re: Being Open For Business

As I mentioned on Tuesday, I believe that we need to stand up a separate subcommittee, working with public health professionals, to provide recommendations on the transition from our current shelter-in-place to a more open community.

There are at least three aspects that are of concern:

1. As Laura and Eric made clear in their respective reports on Tuesday, strategies/needs for re-opening of child care and small businesses of various types will vary greatly. There need to be some agreed-to protocols for how people will interact within these facilities and in public spaces (the social distancing, protective gear, etc.)
2. The second challenge is to determine the timing and sequencing of the opening. On what will these decisions be based? While there is a general expectation that the Governor will ultimately announce when the state will relax the current health orders in place, are there circumstances in which CBJ might choose to extend public health restrictions?
3. More importantly, what are the metrics that would trigger the CBJ to re-impose restrictions in the event of a new outbreak? (Remembering that CBJ acted earlier than the State). While the decision to impose restrictions is a political one, should the city have an agreed-upon panel (or other mechanism) upon whom the city's political leadership could consult and so that it could quickly respond.

Nationally, much has been written about the paramount importance of having substantial testing and trace contact capacity as a prerequisite to reopening our economy. What are the resources that Juneau has at hand—or expects to have over the coming weeks?