



Senator Cathy Giessel

District N

Northeast Anchorage, Anchorage Hillside, Indian, Bird, Girdwood and Portage

October 7, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

COVID Vaccine Development

I've been watching the COVID vaccine development process. This week I participated on a webinar with national leaders and the CDC.

The federal government has engaged in a P3 (Public Private Partnership) with pharmaceutical companies to develop vaccines. Six companies are currently in clinical trials, testing their vaccines with folks in places where the outbreaks are most pronounced. Up to 60,000 volunteers are involved in the trials for each vaccine, compared to the usual volunteer pool of 8,000 persons.

The goal is to develop a vaccine that is safe, effective and plentiful. Twenty-five manufacturing facilities are already stood up, preparing supplies for 600,000-700,000 doses. These supplies include syringes, needles in the variety of gauges needed, and vials to contain the vaccines. These supplies will be standing ready when the vaccines are approved.

The Veterans Administration and Indian Health Services are participating and will rapidly provide vaccine to their beneficiaries. Companies such as FedEx, UPS, Walmart, Walgreens and many more are working to have their services available.

Therapeutics (medications) are continuing to be developed which include medication trials, antibodies and convalescent plasma administration.

The goal is that by February or March 2021 there will be enough of a safe, effective vaccine for all Americans.

My question to Paul Mango, HSS Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and the speaker at the webinar, was whether the clinical trials include diverse populations, specifically Alaska Native. The Hawaii Senate President expanded on my question, asking about their Filipino and South Pacific ethnic residents. Mr. Mango stated that he would get back to us on those questions. It's important for Alaska to have the answers to these questions. Our District N has a very ethnically diverse population; I am concerned that the vaccine is safe for everyone.

School Resuming

I appreciate Anchorage School District Superintendent Deena Bishop's heartfelt concern that "distance education" is failing a large number of our students. I continue to volunteer at the school-based clinics in ASD; I ask high school students how the online school is going for them. All of them say online school is challenging in the sense that it's hard to stay engaged in class; there are too many distractions and their home setting doesn't help them focus.

I am also concerned about the students who don't have the adult supervision and emphasis needed to achieve success in learning via online. Elementary students are particularly a concern.

I believe Superintendent Bishop's passionate support for resuming in-classroom school is well-founded. We are losing too many students, and their futures, by not having crucial teacher-pupil interaction.

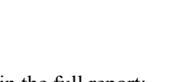
In today's newsletter you'll find:

- [COVID-19 Financial Report from the Governor](#)
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Kind regards,

Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



COVID-19 Financial Report from the Governor

Below you will find a link to the October SB 241 Report to the Legislature relating to State actions and expenditures associated with the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

[Click here to view the full report.](#)

There are four appendices that contain information referenced in the full report:

[Appendix A: Order No. 2 Suspending sections of Alaska Administrative Code and Alaska Statutes](#)

[Appendix B: Federal Funding to Alaska for COVID-19](#)

[Appendix C: COVID-19 Expenditures by Departments, Lost Revenue Estimates, Expenditures over \\$25,000 by Department, and UA Expenditures](#)

[Appendix D: Alaska CRF Allocations](#)

[Click here to visit the State of Alaska COVID-19 Information website.](#)

ADN Virtual Career Fair

The Anchorage Daily News (ADN) Virtual Career Fair is next week! Next Wednesday and Thursday, **October 14 and 15**, from the comfort of your own home, you can connect with employers across the state.



Browse through companies currently hiring, submit resumes, and live chat with job recruiters. **This is a free opportunity!** All you have to do is get registered.

Job Postings and Resume Submission: October 14 & 15, 8am-5pm

Live Chat with Recruiters: October 14, 9am-12pm and October 15, 1pm-4pm

[Click here for more information and to sign up.](#)

South Anchorage Farmers Market Extended!

Stop by the extended Farmers Market Season at **Bell's Nursery Greenhouse** this **Saturday, October 10 from 10:00am-4:00pm** off of Specking Ave. Get all your fresh Alaska Grown food and support local!



SAFM Market Dates at Bell's Nursery:
Saturday, October 10th
Saturday, October 17th
Saturday, October 24th
Saturday, October 31st
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Market Season Extended!

Join your favorite South Anchorage Farmers Market Vendors for an extended Farmers Market Season at Bell's Nursery every Saturday from October 10-31st

from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: 13700 Specking Ave, Anchorage, AK

AFN Virtual Convention

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention will be virtual this year. The theme of the 2020 Convention is "Good Government, Alaskans Decide" and will be held on October 15-16.



[Click here to visit the AFN website.](#)

CASA Volunteer Opportunities

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) For Children volunteers are community members who are screened and trained by the [Alaska CASA Program](#) to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children who are in the custody of the state.

A CASA volunteer is a court appointed, committed adult who ensures that each child's individual needs remain a priority in an over-burdened child welfare system. CASAs get to know the child while also gathering information from the child's family, teachers, doctors, caregivers and anyone else involved in the child's life. The CASA volunteer then makes independent and informed recommendations to help the judge decide what is in the best interests of the child. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives. Please consider volunteering as a CASA to make a difference in the life of a child.

Contact information for each local CASA program is listed below.

Anchorage: <https://www.alaskacasa.org/local-programs/anchorage-casa/>

Fairbanks: <https://www.alaskacasa.org/local-programs/fairbanks-casa/>

Southeast AK: <https://www.alaskacasa.org/local-programs/southeast-casa/>

Valley: <https://www.alaskacasa.org/local-programs/valley-casa/>

Alaskans Invited to Bid on 110 State Land Parcels In Fall Auction

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is inviting Alaskans interested in owning a piece of the Last Frontier to participate in the Fall 2020 Alaska State Land Auction, Offering #491, which includes 110 road-accessible and remote parcels throughout the state.

Alaska residents may submit sealed bids in person, by mail, or online **between October 7 and December 2 at 4:30 p.m.**

Apparent high bids will be announced December 16. Bidders may purchase up to two parcels. [Free auction brochures](#) can be downloaded from the DNR Land Sales website.

Parcels not sold at auction will be available through Over-the-Counter (OTC) sales to Alaska residents, non-residents or businesses, starting on December 30 at 10 a.m.

OTC parcels currently available for purchase are posted on the Land Sales website's Over-the-Counter section. DNR offers competitive in-house financing for land purchases. For more information about OTC sales, see [Auction Brochure #491](#), page 23.

For details on financing and associated costs and Land Sales news and updates, follow Alaska State Land Sales at:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/alaskaland/
- Twitter: [@alaskaland4sale](https://twitter.com/alaskaland4sale)
- Instagram: [@alaska_land4sale](https://www.instagram.com/alaskaland4sale)
- Email subscription: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsales/email/>

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub

The Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub provides information, maps, and resources about the COVID-19 response.

[Click here](#) to visit the hub and explore the latest COVID-19 data for Alaska.



It's a pleasure to serve and represent the wonderful people of District N!

I look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions and comments.

[To email me, click here.](#)



Juneau: State Capitol, Room 111, Juneau, Alaska 99801
Anchorage: 1500 W. Benson Blvd.,
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 800.892.4843

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Staff Contacts
Jane Conway Senate Republican Majority
Emmie Jackson Alaska State Legislature
State of Alaska

