

May 27, 2020

To the AVTEC Community,

In this era of COVID-19, the health and safety of our students, staff and the community of Seward is our highest priority. We all share in the mutual obligation to keep Alaskans safe as we continue to combat the spread of COVID-19 and get back to the business of training Alaskans.

Public health experts note four situations where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is highest: travel between different population areas in-state and out, group housing accommodations and cafeteria style food services, grouped gatherings of people from different households and neighborhoods, and asymptomatic people. These conditions are all present at post-secondary institutions like AVTEC, creating an increased risk for viral infections to spread. This warrants a conservative approach as we reopen on a limited basis this summer in anticipation of welcoming students for on-site training in the fall.

AVTEC created a document outlining a four phase approach to bring students back on campus for training. The document provides guidance regarding operations and outlines the protective measures necessary to keep us moving forward as AVTEC resumes on-site training, activities and operations.

When conditions warrant and we move from one phase to another we carefully consider phases that have a potential risk of reversal and disruption. We include plans for periodic evaluation of effectiveness of safety measures as well as contingency plans to revert back to enhanced protective measures if necessary. Note, these phases are not linear! It is possible that we will move back and forth between the phases as the incidence of COVID-19 rises and falls in our state and community.

Please feel encouraged to discuss any concerns or questions you may have with our plans and activities with me or any staff member. We take health and safety seriously and want your cooperation with our plans, and your feedback, as we navigate AVTEC through this historic post-pandemic world.

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