



Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer
STATE OF ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 13, 2020

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer *KM*

SUBJECT: 2020 Primary Election Planning in Response to COVID-19

My office has been monitoring the COVID-19 situation carefully and we are working with the Division of Elections, along with our local healthcare professionals, to analyze how the primary election this August will be conducted in our communities and school facilities in the safest manner possible.

We take the health and safety of Alaskans seriously. We will do everything possible to ensure the election protects the safety of all Alaskans while allowing voters to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

To that end, the date of the Primary Election is August 18, 2020, which coincides with the beginning of the school year for several districts across the state. To minimize any risk to Alaskan students as we conduct election day activities in many school facilities that serve as polling places across the state, Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson has agreed to declare August 18, 2020, as a non-student contact day. This decision provides districts the option to not have students attend school on this day. If determined necessary, a similar step may be taken by Commissioner Johnson for the General Election on November 3, 2020.

The decision to make August 18 a non-student contact day provides additional peace of mind to parents, school staff, poll workers, and voters and demonstrates our collective commitment to ensuring Alaskans safety and advocating for the peoples' right to vote.

My office will continue to work with the Division of Elections and our healthcare professionals in the coming weeks to determine necessary cleaning and disinfection plans for polling places, including proper sanitation and PPE supplies to be provided to polling places.

Please feel free to contact Commissioner Johnson or my office if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to serving Alaskans during this challenging time.