

Dear,

We write to inform you that we have made the difficult decision to cancel the AMA Annual Convention scheduled to be held in less than six weeks from today.

For some time, we have been hopeful that in-person events could be held safely and successfully. Since late spring we have been planning this event with growing excitement and had a week full of the activities you've come to love, from educational courses to mining presentations, and the networking events we all were so looking forward to.

However, today Alaska sits at the worst place in the nation for case counts per capita and our hospitals are strained beyond measure. Medical professionals are pleading for vaccinations and for citizens to avoid exposure in mass gatherings, and our event would certainly meet that definition. There is no indication that these conditions will change by November 1.

In recognizing these growing health concerns, the Convention Committee assessed the conditions and spent hours with our partners brainstorming how this event could take place with mitigation measures like masking, proof of vaccination, eliminations of meals and networking events, and more. It became evident that the combination of cautionary actions would sacrifice the quality of an event that has for years brought our members significant value, and we are unwilling to put on a Convention that does not benefit you and the Association.

We say "cancel" at this time because we have elected to follow the responses from our survey indicating low interest in a virtual event, and "postpone" led us to discuss how we would administer a springtime event when we would normally hold a Fairbanks convention. So, we will take a fresh look at how we can hold events in 2022, by pulling ideas and participation from a broader section of our membership to do this. This is the time to evaluate new ideas and find the right calendar of events to ensure you are getting your value from AMA and that we are reaching the public to tell our stories.

Today we'll start to handle the cancellation details. All sponsors and vendors will be contacted individually with options for refunds, donations, or other arrangements. Speakers, short course instructors, and other event contributors will be contacted for alternative opportunities. There's a lot of explaining, thanking, and arranging to be done, so please be patient with us as we get through wrapping up the canceled event.

Moving forward, we will be in contact with how you may help with AMA's financial support amidst cancelling our largest fundraiser of the year. Despite the virtual presence many of us have been forced to have, AMA has been working harder than ever to advocate for you. You can see our efforts at: <http://www.alaskaminers.org/take-action>

I can't emphasize enough how much we appreciate your support as we find ourselves in this terrible situation once again. Know that somehow, the decision to cancel this year was

even more difficult than the last. However, there is nothing more important than caring for our members and our communities, and we WILL be together again.

Thank you,

AMA Convention Committee, Board of Directors, and Staff