

## Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release

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Today, the Association of Village Council Presidents Board of Directors held a Special Executive Board Meeting to discuss whether this year's Annual Convention should remain "hybrid", allowing delegates to either attend in-person or virtually, or if it should be changed to a strictly virtual Convention. After thorough deliberation and consideration of current COVID-19 case rates in the Y-K Delta, AVCP has ultimately decided to make this year's Annual Convention fully virtual.

According to an update from YKHC on August 25th, regional cases and communities that are experiencing community spread are steadily increasing. At this point in time, YKHC recommends no large gatherings of outside family.

AVCP's decision to make the convention fully virtual stems from health and safety concerns for our region and our people. With YKHC's recommendations and with the increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations throughout the state, AVCP's CEO, Vivian Korthuis states, "We do not want to add fuel to the fire. Our decision to make this year's convention fully virtual is because we want to fight the current crisis, not make it worse".

We understand the importance of gathering in person and will continue to try our best to make the transition for a fully in-person convention in the future. When we all come together, it allows for better engagement and it fosters an environment for sharing great ideas and solving problems. In order to return to in-person conventions in the future, AVCP highly encourages everyone to get the vaccine.

The AVCP Virtual Convention is scheduled for September 22, 2021. More information on how to join will be sent to all attending parties. Quyanana for your understanding as we navigate through these difficult times.

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*For additional information, please contact AVCP Communications Director, Gage Hoffman at 907-543-7308 or email at [ghoffman@avcp.org](mailto:ghoffman@avcp.org)*

*AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.*

