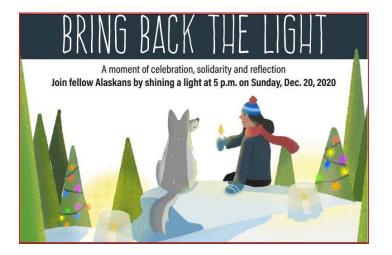


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2020

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services encourages Alaskans to "Bring Back the Light" on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.



WHAT: Bring Back the Light 2020

WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020, at 5 p.m. Alaska Standard Time

WHERE: Wherever Alaskans are – in front of your home or at a location of your choosing. We will be together in spirit but please maintain physical distancing from non-household members. We hope to have Alaskans shine lights from every corner of the state.

WHO: Organized by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services with statewide partners.

DESCRIPTION: On Sunday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m., Alaska DHSS is encouraging each and every Alaskan, in a moment of statewide celebration, solidarity and reflection, to step outside with others in their household and light a candle or turn on lights, flashlights, headlamps or a lantern.

During this pandemic, Alaskans have shown considerable strength to adapt and take care of themselves and each other. On the eve of Winter Solstice, Alaskans will take a moment and come together to show support and gratitude for one another and their communities, take pride in their resiliency and look forward to brighter days ahead.

Each light from every Alaskan will represent brighter days to come, literally and figuratively. It's intended to celebrate Alaskans' resiliency, as well as remember Alaskans lost to COVID-19. Organizations, neighbors and businesses throughout the state have been encouraged to help bring back the light in preparation for brighter days ahead.

More information is available on the <u>event Facebook page</u> or event website. Participants are being encouraged to share photos and videos of their recognition of the event on social media using the hashtag #WithYouAlaska.

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