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Trident Seafoods resumes operations at its Akutan facility

Feb. 22, 2021 (Seattle, WA)—Trident Seafoods resumed operations at its Akutan, Alaska, processing plant on Friday, Feb. 19, after a COVID-19 outbreak spurred a pause on Jan. 21.

Multiple rounds of comprehensive testing brought welcome news last week that COVID-19 cases had been isolated on site. Surveillance testing, symptoms screenings, PPE and distancing protocols continue, and will remain in place throughout the season.

Additional measures are in place to support a swift response if COVID-19 risk is detected again in the future. These include a complete redesign of shift and break schedules to limit instances of close contact and capacity limits to allow distancing in all areas outside workstations, from the galley to the area for donning and doffing rain gear.

“While these new measures are burdensome, we anticipate cooperation and understanding, given everyone’s eagerness to safely return to work,” said Stefanie Moreland, VP of Government Relations. “The management team on site has been working to make sure these operational changes do not come as a surprise, and to ensure our employees know their safety is our priority.”

115 Trident employees who have been quarantined in Sand Point and Anchorage, awaiting opportunity to return to work, arrived in Akutan over the past several days to assist with crab and cod processing at a crucial point in the season, and readying the pollock plant. Pollock processing will resume this week.

The vigilance and dedication of employees, partners and the community made restarting possible after a four-week pause in operations.

“We are humbled by the determination and sacrifice everyone on site has demonstrated to contain COVID-19 spread,” said Trident CEO Joe Bundrant. “It is a tremendous accomplishment.”

With the prospect of reopening on the horizon, Bundrant sent [a message of gratitude](#) to employees, partners and supporters two days before restarting operations.

“The last thirty days have been difficult for all within the Trident family. And while they have been humbling, they have also shone a light on the dedication, creativity, and work ethic of our employees and partners,” he said in the letter. “We will bring a renewed sense of diligence and focus to our primary goal, which is the health and safety of our employees, fisherman, and communities delivering quality seafood from source to plate.”

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