



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 3:45pm, News Release no. 168

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:

COVID-19 tests performed locally	3,934
Cumulative positive persons tested locally	156
Current active cases	46

LOCAL CASE COUNT: The cumulative positive persons tested locally reported on Monday was off by one; the total on Monday should have been 152. Today, we report an additional four cases:

- An employee of Westward Seafoods who tested during their travel quarantine period after arriving in Unalaska on December 1;
- One community member with recent travel history, along with a family member; and
- Another positive case in a community member; details under investigation.

UPDATE LEGACY & ENTERPRISE: O'Hara Corporation is making plans to transport crew members from F/T Enterprise to Anchorage where they will complete isolation/quarantine requirements, which is expected to take place over the next 2 days. U.S. Seafoods continues to work with State and Local officials to meet the needs of the crew from the F/V Legacy, which plans to depart later in the week.

DEFINITION OF CURRENT ACTIVE CASES: In Unalaska's COVID-19 Case Count, "Current active cases" is defined as persons who tested positive in Unalaska, and continue to be within their isolation period. Once an individual has completed their isolation period and is released by health care providers, they are no longer included in the active case count. The isolation period is focused on the period of time in which someone with COVID-19 is able to infect others.

IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS WHO TEST POSITIVE: While we are all taking precautions to protect ourselves from getting or spreading COVID-19, it would be reassuring to take extra precaution not to come into contact with individuals known to have tested positive. However, local health care providers and Unified Command will not report identifying information for persons receiving positive tests. We must remember that individuals with positive tests have a right to privacy regarding their health information. Personnel from IFHS Clinic and DHSS conduct contact tracing to identify and reach out to close contacts and educate them on actions they need to take for their own health and to reduce further transmission of the virus. **Unified Command strongly urges everyone to remain diligent in protecting themselves against COVID-19: wear a face covering, keep six feet from non-household members and wash your hands; avoid crowded spaces, close contacts and confined spaces.**

PAYING FOR COVID-19 TESTING: If you have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had contact with someone who has the virus, please do not avoid testing because you don't have medical insurance or will have difficulty paying for the test. The IFHS Clinic accepts insurance, but also is enrolled in a federal program for COVID testing and treatment. Additionally, IFHS has a sliding fee scale based on income. If you need to get tested, please call the Clinic at 581-1202 to schedule an appointment at the drive-through testing facility. Testing remains one of the best tools to identify persons with the virus so that precautions can be taken to prevent transmission to others.

UPDATED INFORMATION - CITY SERVICES: Due to the High Local Risk Level

- PCR Facilities (Community Center, Library & Aquatic Center) will continue to be closed
- Fingerprinting services at Public Safety are suspended
- Payments due to the City:
 - Checks can be mailed or delivered to the drop box in the vestibule at City Hall
 - Credit & debit cards are accepted by telephone in the City's Finance Department on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; call (907) 581-1251 and press 1 to make a payment (except for tax payments)
 - Tax payments can be made with a credit card online at www.officialpayments.com; select Local Payments, Jurisdiction Code: 1208; Official Payments will add their processing fee

STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT: Source <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	37,342	1,365	38,707
Cumulative Hospitalizations	831	16	847
Deaths Statewide	149	1	150
State's Case Count for Unalaska	14	127	141

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS: Spread cheer, not COVID-19! The safest way to celebrate in person this year is at home with the people you live with. With rapidly increasing community spread of COVID-19 across Alaska, holiday gatherings pose high risk. Any gathering with non-household members, even family or close friends, can spread COVID-19 to loved ones and result in another dangerous rise in cases.

Tips for Safe Celebrations:

- Share a special meal at home with the people who live with you.
- Connect with others virtually. Host a virtual dinner, craft or game night.
- Watch sports events, parades or movies from home.
- If you are physically able, head outside for fresh air and exercise.
- Cook traditional family recipes for family and neighbors. Deliver them without having contact.
- Indoor gatherings, especially those with poor ventilation, pose more risk than outdoor gatherings. Avoid crowded places, confined indoor spaces and close contacts with non-household members.

If you do visit with others outside your household:

- Meet outdoors if you can.
- If you meet indoors, choose a well-ventilated space with room to spread out.
- Wear a mask when you are not eating and keep at least six feet from others.
- It is best not to kiss, hug or touch people who don't live with you.
- Bring your own food and use your own plates, cups & utensils. Avoid potluck-style gatherings.
- Ask people to not attend if anyone has symptoms of COVID-19; is waiting for COVID-19 test results; may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others.

Visit the DHSS holiday website here: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/holidays.aspx>