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NEWS RELEASE

Monday, August 31, 2020, 1:30pm, News Release no. 124
Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: Medium

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:

COVID-19 tests performed locally	1,690
Cumulative positive persons tested locally	101*
Current active cases	4

The number of cumulative positive persons tested locally includes the 85 persons from the fishing vessel American Triumph and the 1 person employed on the State Ferry Tustumena, who all left the island shortly after testing.

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

	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	5,263	862	6,125
Recovered Cases	2,044	194	2,238
Active Cases	3,182	668	3,850
Cumulative Hospitalizations	219	5	224
Deaths	37	0	37
Unalaska (Aleutians West)	7	85	92*

*The total reported by State DHSS for Unalaska doesn't match the cumulative positive persons tested locally because some of those individuals may have previously tested positive before arriving in Unalaska, so were not counted as an additional positive person by the State; or because of other intricacies in how the State tracks cases.

STATE TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS: Alaska DHSS recommends testing for all individuals who have been identified as close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is defined as being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. Close contacts are identified during the contact tracing process. "We still recommend that asymptomatic people who were in close contact to an infected person get tested during their quarantine period. For people who were put into quarantine promptly after their exposure, we recommend testing during the second week of their 14-day quarantine period. However, for people who were exposed a week or more before they were put into quarantine, it would be appropriate to get tested right away," says DHSS Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Joe McLaughlin. "The main problem we want to avoid is asymptomatic people getting tested too early after their exposure to decrease the likelihood of a false-negative test for those who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19." Testing asymptomatic people during their quarantine period helps to identify those who are infected with the virus, their need to be in isolation, and the need to notify and quarantine their close contacts. It is also important that people remain in quarantine for the full 14 days even if they test negative at some point during the quarantine period. A negative test does not shorten quarantine but helps determine who else may have been exposed to the virus. *Lastly, anyone who does develop symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.*