



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Friday, September 25, 2020, 3:00 pm, News Release no. 134

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: Medium

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are no new positive tests to report.

COVID-19 tests performed locally	2,340
Cumulative positive persons tested locally	103*
Current active cases	0

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:

	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	7,254	948	8,202
Recovered Cases	2,778	264	3,042
Active Cases	4,424	684	5,108
Cumulative Hospitalizations	277	6	283
Deaths	51	0	51
Unalaska (Aleutians West)	7	87	94*

Source <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

**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.*

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services added six COVID-19 deaths today.

- One of the deaths was recent. This person was an Anchorage resident in his 60s.
- Five of the deaths were not recent and were coded as COVID deaths by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, which reviews and codes all death certificates nationwide.
- Four of these persons died in Alaska:
 - A male Anchorage resident in his 60s who died in July
 - A male Fairbanks resident in his 60s who died in August
 - A male Anchorage resident in his 50s who died in August

- A male resident of the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area in his 70s who died in August
- One of these persons died out-of-state. This person was a male in his 70s who had listed Soldotna as his place of residence.

DHSS learns about most COVID-19 deaths by reporting from health care facilities. Because COVID-19 is a reportable infectious condition, hospitals report cases of COVID-19 directly to DHSS. COVID-19 deaths should also be reported to DHSS; however, not all deaths are captured. There are many reasons a death might not get reported to DHSS from health care facilities – some patients may remain hospitalized for a long time and have a complex death process, others may be discharged and die at home, and others may be visiting or living in another state but still have Alaska listed as their primary residence.

DHSS is aware that how COVID-19 deaths are counted generates a great deal of interest. To review this process, please visit the [Reporting COVID deaths webpage](#).

QUARANTINE IN SHARED SPACES: It can be challenging to effectively quarantine if there are other people living in the quarantine location, whether that is a private home or shared housing. If you need to observe quarantine following travel or following close contact with an infected individual, Unalaska Unified Command provides the following guidance for quarantining in shared spaces.

- Provide a separate bedroom and bathroom for the person in quarantine, if possible. If you cannot provide a separate room and bathroom, try to separate them from other household members as much as possible.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Provide good air flow by opening windows or using fans.
- **Keep people at higher risk separated from anyone who is in quarantine.**
- Maintain 6 feet between the person in quarantine and other family or household members as much as possible.
- Wear face covering when around family or household members, especially if 6 feet separation cannot be maintained.
- If you need to share a bedroom with someone in quarantine, make sure the room has good air flow.
 - Open the window and turn on a fan to bring in and circulate fresh air if possible.
 - Maintain at least 6 feet between beds if possible.
 - Sleep head to toe.
 - Put a curtain around or place other physical divider (e.g., shower curtain, room screen divider, large cardboard poster board, quilt, or large bedspread) to separate the person in quarantine.
- If you need to share a bathroom with someone in quarantine, clean and disinfect the frequently touched surfaces in the bathroom after each use.
 - Open outside doors and windows before entering and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Wait as long as possible before entering the room to clean and disinfect or to use the bathroom.
 - Don't leave hygiene items on the counter, such as tooth brushes.
- If you are in quarantine, do not prepare food for others and eat separately from household members.
- Do not share dishes, drinking cups or eating utensils. Non-disposable food service items used should be handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.

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