



CITY OF UNALASKA

43 Raven Way • P. O. Box 610
Unalaska, Alaska 99685

www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

CONTACT:

Marjie Veeder, City Clerk
Public Information Officer
Tel 907.581.1251, ext. 2104

Email: mveeder@ci.unalaska.ak.us

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, November 13, 2020, 5:00pm, News Release no. 157

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: Medium

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:

COVID-19 tests performed locally	3,294
Cumulative positive persons tested locally	107
Current active cases	2

On November 10th we reported the first case of COVID-19 in Unalaska in a person with no travel history. This individual is applauded for getting tested after developing symptoms and fully cooperating with the advice of health care providers and with the contact tracing process. We offer our best wishes for a speedy recovery to the individual as they and their family deal with this difficult situation.

The individual's employer, Ace Cargo, provided this statement: ACE would like to assure the residents of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor that our company has had COVID-19 protocols in place since March of 2020. As an essential services provider for the State of Alaska, we have complied with the Governor's Health Mandates and have filed our COVID-19 response plan as requested. At ACE, we have a more restrictive plan in place than the community or state require. We instituted mandatory masks on all personnel several months ago. We screen people for symptoms and we quarantine and test personnel even if they just have one of the symptoms. ACE takes this pandemic very seriously and is committed to protecting our family of employees along with our customers and the communities we serve.

We want to assure the community that only one of our employees there has tested positive and has been quarantined since that day. ACE has assisted and cooperated with the IFHS health clinic and the State of Alaska contact tracing personnel to ensure that all information has been provided to keep the community safe. We do not have any personnel, including pilots, who have been waiting for test results or have tested positive for COVID-19, that have been allowed to work again until they have met the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services requirements for return to work. We intend to continue to screen all of our personnel and follow all COVID-19 requirements in order to ensure their safety and the safety and health of the residents of your community.

ACE has served your community for the past 17 years and is proud of the services that we have provided in freight, mail and passengers. We consider the communities that we serve, especially those like Dutch Harbor/Unalaska where we have local employees, as part of the ACE family.

STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT: The State case count is not provided today as the DHSS COVID-19 response hub was not updated at the time of this news release.

STATUS REPORT FROM STATE DHSS: In their weekly update, Alaska State DHSS provided the following information:

- Virus transmission across Alaska increased for the sixth week in a row; more cases (3,061) were reported in Alaskans this week than any previous week, with an 18% increase over last week
- Cases are rising in both urban and rural regions of the state
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 are rising and hit a record high for the 3rd week in a row; hospital capacity and staffing remain a concern
- Positivity rates for arriving travelers getting tested at Alaska airports have nearly doubled over the last two weeks, illustrating an increased risk of travel
- Testing is not keeping up with new cases
- **Alaskans should get tested immediately at the first sign of any symptoms, even very mild (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea), and immediately isolate themselves from others by staying away from others. Testing is our best tool for understanding virus transmission and risk in our communities.**
- Many Alaskans who are diagnosed with COVID-19 report that they went to social gatherings, community events, church services and other social venues while they were contagious but before they knew they had the virus.
- **Alaskans should avoid indoor gatherings with non-household members, avoid crowds, wear masks when around non-household members and stay six feet from anyone not in their household.**

☺ *It's World Kindness Day* ☺
Spread Kindness, Not the Virus!