



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Monday, November 30, 2020, 4:30pm, News Release no. 163

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:

COVID-19 tests performed locally	3,536
Cumulative positive persons tested locally	109
Current active cases	2

Today we report two new cases of COVID-19 in Unalaska. Both individuals arrived in Unalaska on Monday, November 23, 2020, and have displayed symptoms of COVID-19. The positive tests were obtained at the clinic today. Contact tracing is in process, and we have learned that one of the individuals has had direct contacts with multiple other people in the community since arriving on November 23rd.

This is a good time to remind everyone in the community that the current local mandate requires a 14 day quarantine and symptom monitoring period for anyone arriving in the community. Everyone is **STRONGLY URGED** to comply with the travel quarantine requirement and these COVID-19 protective measures:

- Wash Your Hands Frequently
- Don't Touch Your Face
- Clean & Disinfect Surfaces Daily
- Wear Face Covering in Public (required in businesses)
- Cover Coughs & Sneezes
- Keep 6 feet from Other People
- Keep Your Social Circle Small
- Avoid: gatherings; being in enclosed spaces with others; long interactions with non-household members; being around forceful exhalations like yelling & singing
- Avoid Close Contact with Sick Persons
- Watch for Symptoms & Get Tested if you develop symptoms

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: Because of the potential widespread exposure of COVID-19 in Unalaska, the community's Local Risk Factor has been raised to **HIGH RISK**. Once there has been two weeks of no additional confirmed community spread cases in Unalaska, consideration may be given to step down to Medium Risk.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING: The Unalaska City Council will hold a special meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. to consider additional community-wide protective measures. In addition to the protective measures already in place, the City Manager plans to recommend a community hunker-down order; a limit to public gathering sizes; and a temporary closure to in-person services at bars and restaurants.

CITY FACILITIES CLOSURES:

- PCR Facilities (Community Center, Library & Aquatic Center): Closed to the public starting today at 5pm until further notice; all programs canceled; staff available by phone at 581-1297
- City Hall (City Clerk, Finance, Planning & Administration): Closed to the public; no in-person appointments; business will be conducted electronically, by telephone and U.S. Mail; staff available by phone at 581-1251
- Public Works & Utilities: Closed to the public; no in-person appointments; business will be conducted electronically, by telephone and U.S. Mail; staff available at 581-1260
- Landfill: Open normal hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 9am-6pm; call 581-5757
- Ports & Harbors: Closed to the public; business will be conducted electronically, by telephone and U.S. Mail; harbor officers continue to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 359-1254
- Public Safety (Police, Fire, EMS): Lobby open; call 911 in case of emergency; non-emergency calls please use 581-1233
- DMV: Open by appointment only; call 581-2833

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

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	31,323	1,253	32,576
Cumulative Hospitalizations	710	15	725
Deaths Statewide	120	1	121
State's Case Count for Unalaska	9	92	101

WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE OF SARS-COV-2 IN UNALASKA: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with agencies throughout the federal government, have initiated the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Wastewater surveillance has been shown to forecast clinical detection of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because fragments of the virus can be shed in the feces and urine of individuals with symptomatic or asymptomatic infections. Sewage surveillance can also detect changes in COVID-19 in an infected community over time. The data generated by NWSS will help public health officials to better understand the extent of COVID-19 infections in communities.

The City of Unalaska Wastewater Division joined this network and is actively part of conversations including guidance on improved sampling, testing, and interpretation. The City's Wastewater Division also began testing raw sewage for the genetic signal of SARS-CoV-2 on a weekly basis in mid-July 2020. One to three locations are sampled each week and are composited over 24 hours during peak usage times. Fragments of the virus have not been detected in any of the samples. This could indicate that there is no SARS-CoV-2 in the community or that the concentration of virus in wastewater is below the level the test can detect.

If you'd like further information, please see this article on KUCB: <https://www.kucb.org/post/largely-insulated-coronavirus-unalaska-watching-its-wastewater-signs-trouble>