



## CITY OF UNALASKA

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[www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus](http://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus)

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## NEWS RELEASE

**Friday, December 5, 2020, 2:30pm, News Release no. 165**

### **Coronavirus COVID-19**

**LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH**

#### **UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:**

COVID-19 tests performed locally	3,730
Cumulative positive persons tested locally	120
Current active cases	12

**NEW CASES:** Today we report eight (8) new cases of COVID-19 in individuals who tested positive yesterday at the IFHS Clinic in Unalaska.

Six of these individuals are employees of local seafood processing companies and have been in quarantine since arrival in Unalaska. Five of the individuals are employed at Alyeska Seafoods and arrived in Unalaska on a chartered flight on December 1<sup>st</sup>. One of the individuals is employed at UniSea who arrived in Unalaska on a commercial flight on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Tracing is in progress. The individuals have been moved to isolation and are receiving care from staff at the IFHS Clinic.

Two individuals with positive tests are employed on a U.S. Seafoods fishing vessel in port. The employees testing positive are isolated on the vessel and staff from the clinic are testing the remaining crew on board. U.S. Seafoods, LLC provided this statement: "We have operated under a safety plan approved by the State of Alaska to prevent a case of COVID-19 on our vessel and have strict protocols to prevent exposure of the community, should a case arise. We are working hard to ensure that those protections are maintained and effective. We are also working with our medical provider who is coordinating with the State of Alaska and the community to ensure that our crew receive the best medical care possible to address their illness and to minimize further spread of the virus among the crew."

**UPDATE ON ICICLE EMPLOYEE REPORTED WEDNESDAY:** The employee of Icicle Seafoods who tested positive on December 2<sup>nd</sup> arrived in Unalaska on November 18<sup>th</sup> on a commercial flight. Contract tracing is underway.

**CONTACT TRACING:** Even though contact tracing is in progress for all new cases, if you arrived in Unalaska on any of the dates listed for new cases, please feel free to telephone the IFHS Clinic to discuss with a provider any potential exposure and determine if testing and other measures may be appropriate. The new positive cases emphasize the importance of submitting completed Contact Tracing Forms on arrival in Unalaska so that contact tracers know how to contact you if anyone on your flight is later found to be COVID-positive.

**EVERYONE STRONGLY URGED TO COMPLY WITH THE TRAVEL QUARANTINE ORDER:** The recent case of breaking travel quarantine and other new cases of COVID-19 in Unalaska demonstrate how vitally important it is to comply with Unalaska's 14-day travel quarantine for anyone arriving in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor! Arriving travelers may be unaware they are COVID-19 positive and unknowingly spread infection to others. Everyone must do their part to protect themselves and to protect others.

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

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	34,041	1,284	35,325
Cumulative Hospitalizations	779	15	794
Deaths Statewide	141	1	142
State's Case Count for Unalaska	12	92	104

**COVID-19 cases continue to surge in the State of Alaska. On December 3, State DHSS reported a record high of new cases in a single day (755), 8 recent deaths and 15 new hospitalizations; and today reported another very high case count (744), 11 new hospitalizations and 12 deaths (3 recent and 9 from review of death certificates). Today on the DHSS Data Hub, they report there are only 27 Adult ICU beds available statewide, and that 14.3% of all hospitalizations are related to COVID-19.**

Here is a brief summary of Alaska DHSS COVID-19 Weekly Update for November 22-28:

- Virus transmission across Alaska is estimated to have increased for the ninth week in a row.
- Cases diagnosed in recent weeks have exceeded the ability of public health to immediately report individual cases. Cases reported this week are an underestimate of true new positive tests. New positive tests are always an underestimate of true new cases.
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 continue to rise. Hospital capacity and staffing have become a significant concern.
- Testing is not keeping up with new cases.
- Alaskans should get tested immediately at the first sign of any symptoms. Testing is our best tool for understanding virus transmission and risk in our communities.
- ***Most Alaskans get COVID-19 from a friend, family member or coworker. 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.***
- ***Travel is currently a high risk activity. This week, around 1 in 16 passengers tested after arriving at Alaska airports from out of state were positive for the virus causing COVID-19.***

