



## 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 11, 2020, 2:45pm, News Release no. 169**

### **Coronavirus COVID-19**

#### **LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH**

**UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:** Today we report 8 new cases, 3 which are industry-related and 5 who are household members of other people who had positive tests for the virus.

COVID-19 Tests Performed Locally -----4,014  
Cumulative Positive Persons Tested Locally -----164  
Current Active Cases (breakdown below) ----- 21  
    Industry Related -----12  
    Travel Related ----- 1  
    Community Acquired ----- 2  
    Household Members----- 6

Moving forward, we plan to provide the above level of detail for the local case count, so long as it is sustainable for our health care providers and contact tracing teams to report. For cases related to Industry or Travel, we will supply further information, such as date of arrival, if that case had the potential of impacting other people.

#### **Definitions:**

- COVID-19 Tests Performed Locally: COVID tests completed by clinic staff (IFHS, APIA)
- Cumulative Positive Persons Tested Locally: Persons receiving positive tests; one person with multiple positive tests is counted once
- Current Active Cases: Persons with positive tests who have not been released from isolation
- Industry Related: Persons employed at local seafood processing facilities, or on vessels in port
- Travel Related: Persons who likely acquired the virus outside Unalaska during recent travel
- Community Acquired: Persons whose acquisition of the virus cannot be directly linked to travel or household exposure, or incoming industry individuals in a quarantined status
- Household Members: Household members of persons testing positive, who likely acquired the virus within the household

**TESTING WASTEWATER FOR COVID-19:** As reported on November 30, Unalaska's Wastewater Lab is testing wastewater for COVID-19. Wastewater surveillance has been shown to forecast clinical detection of the virus that causes COVID-19. For the first time since testing began in July, samples from December 2 & 3 tested positive for the virus. At the time of this testing, there were active cases of the virus on the island, so it is good to know the testing works, and can detect the virus, even with relatively few cases on the island.

**STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT:** Source <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>. Reporting 668 new cases and 8 new deaths statewide since our December 9 News Release.

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	38,584	1,391	39,975
Cumulative Hospitalizations	852	17	869
Deaths Statewide	157	1	158
State's Case Count for Unalaska	20	129	149

**COVID VACCINE INFORMATION:** For information about the vaccine distribution planning effort in the State of Alaska, visit the DHSS Vaccine Website at [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov).

**GOVERNOR TO ISSUE NEW EMERGENCY DECLARATION:** Governor Dunleavy announced he will issue another 30-day COVID-19 Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration for the State of Alaska, effective December 16, 2020 through January 15, 2021. "While the first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine is expected to arrive in Alaska any day now, the threat posed by the virus is still with us," said Governor Dunleavy. "We can see the light at the end of the tunnel - but the next 30 days are crucial to advance therapeutic treatments and the vaccination plan so we can defeat this virus and begin returning to normal." The declaration will be formally issued by Monday, December 14, 2020.

**ALASKA DHSS – BRING BACK THE LIGHT 2020:** On *Sunday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m.*, Alaska DHSS is encouraging each and every Alaskan, in a moment of statewide celebration, solidarity and reflection, to step outside with others in their household and light a candle or turn on lights, flashlights, headlamps or a lantern (please maintain physical distancing from non-household members). During this pandemic, Alaskans have shown considerable strength to adapt and take care of themselves and each other. On the eve of Winter Solstice, Alaskans will take a moment and come together to show support and gratitude for one another and their communities, take pride in their resiliency and look forward to brighter days ahead. Each light from every Alaskan will represent brighter days to come, literally and figuratively. It's intended to celebrate Alaskans' resiliency, as well as remember Alaskans lost to COVID-19. Organizations, neighbors and businesses throughout the state have been encouraged to help bring back the light in preparation for brighter days ahead.

