



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 3:15pm, News Release no. 171

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: Seven new cases are reported today - one Community Acquired; one Travel Related; and five Industry Related. Contact tracing is in process, and all close contacts of those persons testing positive will be notified.

COVID-19 Tests Performed Locally -----4,054
Cumulative Positive Persons Tested Locally -----171
Current Active Cases (see breakdown) ----- 13
 Industry Related ----- 8
 Travel Related ----- 2
 Community Acquired ----- 1 (*Last community spread case identified on 12/15/2020*)
 Household Members ----- 2

STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT: Reporting 900 new cases and 5 new deaths statewide since the News Release on December 14th.

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	41,041	1,432	42,473
Cumulative Hospitalizations	903	18	921
Deaths Statewide	180	1	181
State's Case Count for Unalaska	24	133	157*

**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.*

NEW LOCAL COVID-19 MANDATE: Last night the Unalaska City Council entered a new COVID-19 mandate, Resolution 2020-77. A brief summary of the major elements of the mandate follows, with **new provisions in red**. The full text of the document is available on the City of Unalaska website here: <https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/local-mandates>. If the community Risk Level reduces to medium, the City Council may consider revising the expiration date of the mandate.

- **Effective Date** - Noon, December 16, 2020
- **Expiration Date** - Noon, January 13, 2020

- **Hunker Down** - Everyone in the City is to stay at home as much as possible, except to
 - go to work or school when remote work and learning are not feasible
 - get groceries or other essential goods & services
 - receive or provide health care
 - get fresh air without contacting other people
- **Gathering Size Limitation** - Gatherings are limited to **10** persons so long as six feet is maintained between household groups and face coverings are worn by all participants
- **Temporary Closure of Bars and Restaurants for In-Person Service** – In-person service at bars and restaurants is temporarily closed. Food and beverages may be offered curb-side, walk-up, drive-through or delivery.
- **Face Coverings** - Customers and visitors of businesses and organizations, **as well as employees and volunteers serving customers**, must wear a covering over their nose and mouth.
- **14 Day Traveler Self Quarantine** - Anyone traveling into the City by vessel or airplane must self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms, with limited exceptions. The rules for quarantine are set out in the mandate. The 14 Day Quarantine must be observed, whether or not the traveler has received a negative test for COVID-19.
- **Days at Sea** – Vessels are no longer allowed to count days at sea toward the local 14-day traveler quarantine.
- **Community and Workforce Protective Plans** - Business that are required to submit community and workforce protective plans to the State of Alaska must submit those plans to the City if their employees are traveling here.
- **Protective Protocols** - All business open to the public in Unalaska / Dutch Harbor must post their basic measures to protect the public health on the doors to the business.

Violation of this resolution is punishable as a misdemeanor under Unalaska Code of Ordinances § 2.96.090 and is a Public Nuisance, subject to the remedies in UCO § 11.08 including prosecution as a minor offense.

THE SWISS CHEESE ANALOGY: Can a stack of Swiss cheese protect you from contracting coronavirus? Of course not. But an analogy based on Swiss cheese actually can help. Public health officials say the “Swiss cheese” approach to reducing the risk of being infected can help keep people healthy. Some people believe there’s no point wearing a face covering because respiratory particles can still get through. Others say social distancing alone is enough to keep them safe. But the truth is, no single protective measure is perfectly effective. But multiple imperfect protective measures, layered together, enhance our ability to protect against being infected. Think of each protective measure as a slice of Swiss cheese. See graphic below. There are holes in each and the virus may get through. But if you have multiple layers of protection, it is less likely the holes line up to allow the virus to get to you. So continue to practice those personal protective measures, and think “Swiss cheese”!

