



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

March 27, 2020, 2:00 pm, News Release no. 17

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: High.

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are still no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Unalaska. Yesterday, we reported 8 tests, but that was an error. Seven tests have been performed, 4 of which were negative and 3 of which are pending.

Patients tested by IFHS	7
Confirmed Negative Tests	4
Confirmed Positive Tests	0
Pending Test Results	3

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are 69 confirmed cases in the state as of 3pm yesterday.

QUARANTINE SITE: Our local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in conjunction with the IFHS Clinic, seafood industry partners and others, is in the final stages of preparing a quarantine site in Unalaska. This site will be available for folks only on referral from the IFHS clinic, who have been evaluated, need to isolate and have no other housing option. This is not a medical care facility, but rather a place to stay for folks who are able to take care of themselves, who are only mildly ill, and do not have other suitable accommodations. People will be appropriately segregated within the building, and plans are in place for laundry, food delivery, etc. Patients that are very ill will remain at the clinic and may be transported to a hospital in Anchorage. The quarantine site will be used for people in these categories:

- Person Under Monitoring (PUM): a person who has had close contact (closer than 6 feet) with a confirmed COVID-19 infected person
- Person Under Investigation (PUI): a person who is showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 but does not have a lab confirmed diagnosis
- Covid-19 Patients: those with a confirmed positive case, but exhibiting no or mild symptoms

This quarantine site is a result of true community collaboration and many businesses and individuals working together for the common good. Numerous fishing and seafood processing companies have donated expertise, man hours, supplies and more to make this a reality.

PATIENT TRANSPORTATION: IFHS Clinic personnel have been in contact with the United States Coast Guard and Alaska Air National Guard, and both organizations are making preparations to help Unalaska and other remote Alaska communities with transport of patients to Anchorage during this pandemic, if called upon to do so. We are very pleased to have LifeMed stationed here on the island for medevac to Anchorage, but LifeMed's capacity to transport patients is limited by the size of their aircraft, the length of the flight, crew time, etc. Knowing help is available from the Coast Guard and Air National Guard, if needed, is reassuring to clinic staff and community members alike.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY PREPARATIONS: Members of the COVID-19 Emergency Operations Team in Unalaska are working closely with seafood industry partners across the region to ensure our plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are well aligned. Their primary goal and central focus is preventing the spread of COVID-19 within Alaska, and to its fishing communities. The seafood industry has implemented many protocols and a communications framework to continue to assess risks and identify and distribute the most current guidance throughout the industry. Seafood companies are updating their screening and monitoring plans in conjunction with maritime health doctors to prevent anyone with a risk profile from traveling to these communities and preventing sick crew members from being placed in plants or on vessels. Seafood companies are also submitting procedures to the State of Alaska that detail processes in place to ensure compliance with the recent State of Alaska travel mandates. Additionally, local seafood industry representatives are actively involved in planning and implementing community prevention efforts being undertaken collaboratively with the City of Unalaska, the IFHS clinic, Public Safety, EMS, and other key community agencies.

EMERGENCY FOOD DELIVERY PROGRAM: The EOC has also developed an emergency food delivery program, which will be implemented if the need arises. The program is intended to provide a supply of basic food and other necessities for residents who, as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing or quarantine measures, are unable to obtain necessary supplies. It is important to note that this program is not a personal shopping service, but rather is intended to be a resource for those in need of basic supplies who might otherwise suffer undue hardship because they do not have family, friends or other resources to obtain groceries. Details of the program will be provided, if and when the need arises.

SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT: If you are presently on travel quarantine and concerned about obtaining food or supplies, please call USAFV at 581-1500 or APIA at 359-2743.

CRISIS LINES: If you need help, are distressed, want to talk about your troubles, help is available! Please call:

- USAFV 24-Hour Crisis Line (907) 581-1500
- USAFV Toll-Free 24-Hour Crisis Line (800) 478-7238
- APIA Behavioral Health Crisis Line (907) 359-2743

UNALASKA SCHOOLS: The School District has completed distribution of educational materials to 95% of students, and will begin delivery of sack lunches to about 110 students on Monday, for those students who typically receive free and reduced prices meals.

KUCB RADIO CALL-IN SHOW Today at 5pm: KUCB will host a live call-in show with Unalaska's Mayor Vincent Tutiakoff and City Manager Erin Reinders, discussing actions being taken to protect our community from COVID-19, and the local response if the virus arrives in Unalaska. Tune in to 89.7 today at 5pm. Questions can be emailed in advance to news@kucb.org or called in during the live show to 581-1888.

RESOURCES FOR INFORMATION:

- CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.coronavirus.gov
- State of Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services – <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>
- Dial 211 - the State of Alaska telephone information line for non-clinical questions
- City of Unalaska – www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus
- Call the City of Unalaska public safety recorded message line for daily updates: 581-6080

Next Update – Monday, March 30, 2020

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