



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 2:15 pm, News Release no. 196

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: **HIGH**

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: Today we report 109 new persons with positive tests for COVID-19. All of these new cases are "Industry Related" and most of them are from the outbreak at Alyeska Seafoods.

NEW CASES -----109

CURRENT ACTIVE CASES -----191

Industry Related ----- 189

Travel Related----- 0

Community Acquired ----- 2

Household Acquired----- 0

CUMULATIVE COVID Tests Performed Locally -----7,569

CUMULATIVE Positive Persons Tested Locally -----627

Category Definitions:

- New Cases: Number of persons with positive tests identified since the last News Release
- 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; incoming industry workers; or cases where transmission of the virus likely occurred within the workplace
- 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, household exposure or industry individuals
- Household Acquired: Household members of persons testing positive, who likely acquired the virus within the household
- COVID-19 Tests Performed Locally: COVID tests completed by local clinics (IFHS, APIA)
- Cumulative Positive Persons Tested Locally: Persons receiving positive tests; one person with multiple positive tests is counted once. This total does not include internal surveillance testing performed by industry unless such testing produced a positive result.

STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT: Today we report 567 new cases since our News Release on February 12, along with 8 new hospitalizations and 6 deaths. Data source: <https://alaska-coronavirus-vaccine-outreach-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	54,799	2,178	56,977
Cumulative Hospitalizations	1,202	36	1,238
Deaths Statewide	286	2	288
State's Case Count for Unalaska	181	273	454*

**The total reported by State DHSS for Unalaska doesn't match the "Cumulative Positive Persons Tested Locally" because of various factors, including timing of reporting to the State; 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.*

EXPIRATION OF STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION: The State of Alaska's COVID-19 disaster declaration was allowed to expire on February 14, 2021. The State issued four health advisories, listed below, addressing general safety, travel and critical infrastructure, with appendices focusing on the seafood industry. The advisories are based on the latest epidemiological data and expertise within the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and outline best practices to continue mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Health Advisory 1 – Recommendations to Keep Alaskans Safe – Addresses the safety measures Alaskans can take to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Health Advisory 2 – International and Interstate Travel – While Alaska resident and non-resident travelers will no longer be required to have pre-travel negative tests upon arrival, it is still considered one of the best mechanisms to track the virus and prevent community spread. The existing airport testing infrastructure will remain in place to protect Alaskans and visitors alike. As a reminder, anyone positive for COVID-19 is not allowed to travel.

Health Advisory 3 – Intrastate Travel – Outlines expectations of communities for allowing travel Critical Infrastructure personnel, as well as for community members and Critical Personal needs. The advisory recommends COVID testing three days prior to travel to locations on the road system and the Alaska Marine Highway System. For locations off the road system and the Alaska Marine Highway System, a test is recommended for trips lasting longer than 72 hours before returning to a rural community. Without a test, strict social distancing should be followed.

Health Advisory 4 – Critical Infrastructure – The advisory provides clear guidance for Critical Infrastructure businesses operating in Alaska to protect both communities and industries. There are appendices for Seafood Processing Workers; Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels; and Independent Commercial Harvesters.

Copies of the Health Advisories are available online here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>

CITY OF UNALASKA EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND LOCAL COVID MANDATE: The City of Unalaska's Declaration of Emergency (Resolution 2021-71) remains in effect through June 30, 2021 as does the City's Continuing Measures to Protect Public Health (the most recent version of which is Resolution 2021-09). Both of these documents, and additional information, are available on the City of Unalaska website: <https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/coronavirus-covid-19>

The current local mandate related to COVID-19, among other things, requires coverings over the nose and mouth in businesses and organizations serving the public; sets limits to public indoor gatherings; and requires a 14 day quarantine for all persons arriving in town with limited exceptions. The full order is available here: <https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/local-mandates>