



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 1:30 pm, News Release no. 197

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH

Yesterday we reported 109 new cases of COVID-19, which were all "Industry Related" which means the positive tests were received by:

- 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.

We also reported 191 Current Active Cases (189 Industry Related and 2 Community Acquired).

It is important for everyone to understand that many of the recent Industry Related cases have not been from persons in travel quarantine after arriving on island, but rather from folks who have received positive tests as local seafood processing facilities conduct surveillance testing of their work force. We must assume that some of the people with positive tests have been out and about in the community, with multiple contacts.

This is the reason we do contact tracing and notify a positive person's close contacts; and it is also why we have community mitigation measures in place to protect the public health: wearing of face coverings, size limitations on public gatherings, the 14-day incoming traveler quarantine, etc.

The community is most definitely at a high local risk factor for COVID-19, in fact, more serious than at any time since the start of the pandemic. The vaccine provides hope, but vaccine supply has limited our ability to vaccinate everyone who wants to receive it. We ask everyone in town to do their part, working together, to protect themselves and protect each other from this highly contagious virus:

- Wash Your Hands Frequently
- Don't Touch Face with unwashed hands
- Clean & Disinfect Surfaces Daily
- Wear Face Covering in Public (required in businesses)
- Cover Coughs & Sneezes
- Keep 6 feet from Other People
- Keep Your Social Circle Small
- Avoid: large gatherings; being in enclosed spaces with others; long interactions with non-household members; being around forceful exhalations like yelling & singing
- Avoid Close Contact with Sick Persons
- Watch for Symptoms & Get Tested if you Develop Symptoms