



## 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, February 19, 2021, 1:30 pm, News Release no. 198

### **Coronavirus COVID-19**

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

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN & RISK THRESHOLDS:** The City of Unalaska is still in a state of emergency. To provide a coordinated, multi-agency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Unified Command Emergency Operations Center (EOC) structure was established almost a year ago. IFHS Clinic personnel provide clinical leadership and healthcare services; the City provides overall operational leadership; and the response effort includes collaboration with the Qawalangin Tribe, APIA, representatives of the seafood industry, Unalaska City School District, and key social service agencies.

The City developed a COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan that includes thresholds of risk, with mitigation efforts associated with each risk level. The thresholds were developed in close consultation with the State of Alaska based on our particular population and setting. The community is presently at the **High Risk Level** related to COVID-19.

The EOC continues with a cautious approach to COVID-19 and careful consideration is given to the risk level based on many factors, including the State's Alert Level for our region; health care resources available on-island; the ability to maintain the standard of care for all patients; the long distance to advanced health care facilities; multiple congregant living and work environments in the community; the large seasonal influx of people coming here to work; the number of persons in town with positive tests for COVID-19 and whether they can be safely isolated from others; whether there is widespread exposure to COVID-19; and the identification of Community Acquired case(s) with no clear origin of exposure.

The last Community Acquired case was announced on February 12. Taking all these factors into consideration, along with the significant number of current active cases that impact our ability to respond, the EOC is maintaining the high risk level.

**UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:** Clinic personnel go to great lengths to provide accurate and timely case counts to the community. The case count categories indicate where a person was likely exposed to or acquired the virus. The virus acquisition definitions have been slightly edited in an effort to help the community understand how cases are categorized. Please note that cases may be moved between categories as new information comes to light.

NEW CASES (all Industry Related) ----- 11

CURRENT ACTIVE CASES ----- 198

Industry Related ----- 196

Community Acquired ----- 2

CUMULATIVE COVID Tests Performed Locally ----- 7,649

CUMULATIVE Positive Persons Tested Locally ----- 638

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 fishing vessels in port; incoming employees in that industry; and cases where transmission of the virus likely occurred within the workplaces of those industries
- 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 persons in the Industry Related category
- 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 428 new cases statewide since our News Release on February 17, along with 5 new hospitalizations and 1 death. Data source: <https://alaska-coronavirus-vaccine-outreach-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	55,198	2,207	57,405
Cumulative Hospitalizations	1,207	36	1,243
Deaths Statewide	286	3	289
State's Case Count for Unalaska	182	297	479*

*\*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 and by 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.*