



## 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

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 3:15 pm, News Release no. 200

### Coronavirus COVID-19

**LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH.** 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 working 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; the severity of those cases, 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 at this time.

**UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:** As a reminder, the case count categories indicate where a person was most likely exposed to or acquired the virus.

NEW CASES ----- 3  
    Industry Related----- 3  
    Travel Related ----- 0  
    Community Acquired ----- 0  
    Household Acquired ----- 0  
CURRENT ACTIVE CASES----- 103  
    Industry Related----- 102  
    Travel Related ----- 1 (Reclassified as Travel-Related based on new information)  
    Community Acquired ----- 0  
    Household Acquired ----- 0  
CUMULATIVE COVID Tests Performed Locally ----- 7,885  
CUMULATIVE Positive Persons Tested Locally ----- 659

**STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT:** Today we report 583 new cases statewide since our News Release on February 22, along with 17 new hospitalizations and no new deaths.

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	55,736	2,252	57,988
Cumulative Hospitalizations	1,222	38	1,260
Deaths Statewide	287	3	290
State's Case Count for Unalaska	190	329	519

**NEW COVID MANDATE:** Last evening the Unalaska City Council adopted a new local mandate, Resolution 2021-11, containing measures to protect the public health, which is effective at noon today and expires at noon on March 10, 2021. There were several changes made from the prior order, most notably to the Traveler Self-Quarantine section. The document is available on the City of Unalaska website (<https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/local-mandates>) and is briefly summarized as follows:

- **Health Advisories:** Everyone is required to follow State of Alaska Health Advisories, available here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>
- **Face Coverings:** Coverings over the nose and mouth are required of customers and visitors of businesses and organizations, as well as employees and volunteers serving customers. Businesses may refuse admittance and service to those who fail to comply.
- **Public Indoor Gathering Limitations:**
  - Gatherings are meetings or events that bring together people from multiple households
    - Limit to 10 people
    - Face coverings required
    - Maintain 6 foot social distancing between household groups
  - Exceptions:
    - School District limited to 50% of classroom occupancy or 10 people per room, whichever is greater pursuant to their State Smart Start 2020 Plan
    - Bars and restaurants limited to 35% maximum occupancy or 10 people per room, whichever is greater; tables must be 6 feet apart, and no more than 5 people per table; sit down service only, no bar or rail service. Council added an exception to the "sit-down table service only" for U.S. Coast Guard vessel crews when they are occupying a closed establishment
    - Places of worship limited to 35% of maximum occupancy or 10 people per room, whichever is greater
- **Traveler Self Quarantine:** Anyone traveling into the City by vessel or airplane must self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms for:
  - 10 days; or
  - 7 days with a negative PCR COVID-19 test result, taken no sooner than the 6<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine
- No quarantine required for travelers who
  - Tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered, with no new symptom development; or
  - Are fully vaccinated for at least 14 days prior to the date of travel
- Critical Business Purposes: Employees arriving in town must quarantine on arrival; may work during quarantine subject to the local mandate and their employer's protocols submitted to the City and the State; and must quarantine during non-work hours during the quarantine period. People traveling for critical business purposes are required to follow their approved plan according to State Health Advisory No. 4 and Section 5 of the local mandate.
- Travelers on Stopover in Unalaska: Travelers whose final destination is not Unalaska / Dutch Harbor must self-quarantine during their stopover, but not remain here for a quarantine period.

- Arriving on Vessels: Time at sea may count toward quarantine under specific conditions. See the full mandate for details.
- Alaska Residents Traveling on State Ferry for Critical Personal Needs: Travelers from other Alaskan communities, traveling to Unalaska on the Alaska Marine Highway System for critical personal needs, are exempt from certain portions of the Travel Quarantine, in that they may enter stores or businesses for critical personal needs. When not engaged in meeting critical personal needs, ferry travelers are required to follow self-quarantine requirements.
- **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.
- **Marine Tourism**: Marine tourism passengers and providers are required to adhere to resolutions, ordinances, orders of the City Manager, or any other local mandates relate to public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Penalties**: Violation of local order 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

**STATE OF ALASKA REPORTS NEW VARIANTS**: State DHSS reported a new variant was detected and announced yesterday. So far three cases of variants have been detected, two cases of "B 1.1.1.7" and one case of "P.1". Further information is available here: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/variants.aspx>.

**VACCINE ELIGIBILITY**: DHSS today is also announcing three clarifications regarding who is currently eligible to receive the vaccine. State-allocated vaccine is now open to Phase 1a through Phase 1b, Tier 2. For details about eligibility, please visit [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov) or the [vaccine eligibility webpage](#). We also encourage people to take the [eligibility quiz](#) to determine if they are currently eligible to receive state-allocated vaccine.

- **Senior helpers are added to Phase 1b, Tier 1**: People who assist someone 65 years of age or older in getting a vaccination are now eligible to be vaccinated at the same time. Both the senior and the person helping will need to schedule an appointment at the same location and time. The person assisting does not need to meet other eligibility requirements to receive the vaccine.
- **The definition of those whose work requires interaction with individuals in congregate settings is expanded in Phase 1b, Tier 2**: Congregate settings may include people working in any system whose job responsibilities require them to interact with individuals residing in congregate settings (e.g. people who work in the judicial system). *Note: This was previously limited to the judicial system.*
- **Workers in health care settings is expanded in Phase 1a, Tier 3**: Workers in health care settings includes people who stay home to provide health care for a medically fragile person. Eligible individuals provide daily support related to an individual's activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, dressing, eating) and instrumental activities of daily living (e.g., shopping, laundry, light housework). *Note: This previously included only those providing care for people age 65 and above.*