



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

April 1, 2020, 2:00 pm, News Release no. 21

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: High.

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus / COVID-19 on the island.

Patients tested by IFHS	7
Confirmed Negative Tests	6
Confirmed Positive Tests	0
Pending Test Results	1

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are 133 confirmed cases in the state as of yesterday.

PROTECT YOURSELF; PROTECT OTHERS: Social distancing and personal protective measures are proving to be effective in combating the spread of infection. It is up to each and every one of us to do our part to prevent the spread of this illness. Please continue to maintain six feet between you and non-household members at all times; wash your hands frequently; use alcohol hand sanitizer; don't touch your face; cover coughs and sneezes; cleanse and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and stay home if you're sick.

LOCAL TESTING CAPABILITY: The local IFHS clinic is actively working to gain the ability to run rapid tests for coronavirus, investigating both governmental and private sources for the testing units. The availability of point of care testing is limited at this time in areas that do not have cases, but production of these testing units is expanding as additional units are being approved by the FDA.

CHLOROQUINE PHOSPHATE: There has been discussion across the nation about the use of chloroquine phosphate to treat COVID-19. Ingestion of non-pharmaceutical products containing chloroquine phosphate has resulted in at least two deaths thus far. At this time, there are no routinely available pharmaceutical products that are FDA-approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat specific medical conditions, such as malaria, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis. Currently, these medications are being studied and evaluated as treatment for COVID-19; however, the effectiveness to either prevent or treat this infection is unknown. In overdose situations or when used inappropriately, these medications can lead to severe toxicity, including cardiac rhythm disturbances, severe hypokalemia, cardiovascular collapse, seizures, coma and death. Inappropriate uses include: taking commercially available, non-pharmaceutical preparations; taking chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine sulfate without a prescription; and taking additional doses not recommended by a healthcare provider.

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