



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 3:15pm, News Release no. 233

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH

Unalaska Unified Command is raising the community COVID-19 Risk Level to **HIGH**. This change is due to two newly identified community acquired cases of COVID-19. Four additional recent cases have also been identified, three of which traveled recently and one which is industry-related. Through the upsurge in cases, widespread community exposure has been confirmed. Additionally, wastewater testing recently showed a significant spike in COVID-19 positivity.

The IFHS Clinic is presently able to maintain their standard of care for all patients, but hospitals in Anchorage are becoming overloaded, contributing to diversion of transferring patients. The alert level for most of the State of Alaska is high.

In Alaska and nationwide, 97% of new cases of COVID-19 are the Delta Variant, which is 2-3 times more transmissible and is infecting both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. However, vaccinated individuals have a lower probability of infection, much milder illness, and avoid hospitalization and death at a much higher rate than unvaccinated individuals.

Unalaska Unified Command **STRONGLY** encourages increased personal protective measures in order to avoid a large outbreak in the community:

- Wash Your Hands Frequently
- Don't Touch Face with Unwashed Hands
- Wear Face Covering in Public
- Cover Coughs & Sneezes
- Keep 6 feet from Other People
- Keep Your Social Circle Small
- Avoid Contact with Sick Persons
- When Sick, Stay Home
- Watch for Symptoms & Get Tested if you Develop Symptoms
- Avoid: large gatherings; being in enclosed spaces with others; long interactions with non-household members; being around forceful exhalations like yelling & singing
- Clean & Disinfect Surfaces Daily
- Limit Interactions After Traveling as this is a very high risk activity at this time

The Unalaska City Council is scheduled to review community-wide protective measures at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 24. By that time, our local health care providers and Incident Commanders will have more information about potential community spread following last weekend's events, and results of further wastewater testing.

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:

Current Active Cases ----- 6
Industry Related ----- 1
Travel Related ----- 3
Community Acquired ----- 2
Household Acquired ----- 0

STATE OF ALASKA CASE COUNT: Reporting 6,954 new cases of COVID-19 in the State since our News Release on July 28, along with 177 additional hospitalizations and 24 deaths.

STATEWIDE STATISTICS	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cumulative Cases	77,774	3,563	81,337
Cumulative Hospitalizations	1,858	74	1,932
Deaths Statewide	400	8	408
State's Case Count for Unalaska	206	565	771

COVID VACCINE: The State vaccine dashboard for the Aleutians West Region shows 73% of the population age 12 and over with at least their first dose of the vaccine, an increase from 70% at the end of July; and 60% of the population fully vaccinated. Vaccines continue to be available through both the IFHS and APIA clinics.

CITY FACILITIES: In order to protect the health and wellbeing of our employees and first responders, and to help stop a potential local outbreak of cases, many city facilities will be open by appointment only starting tomorrow, August 18. Occupancy limits have been developed for PCR facilities and reservations are required. Each facility has developed COVID-19 protective measures for the benefit of both our employees and the community we serve. The following table provides a brief overview of the hours of availability. Please call in advance to schedule an appointment, make a reservation and obtain information about the protective measures required:

FACILITY	OPEN TO PUBLIC	HOURS	TELEPHONE
Aquatic Center	Limited Occupancy Reservation Required	Monday-Friday: 6-7am; 10-11am; Noon-1pm; 3:30-4:30pm; & 6:30-7:30pm Saturday-Sunday: 1-2pm; 3-4pm; & 5-6pm	581-1649
City Hall (City Clerk, Planning, Finance, City Mgr., Administration, IS)	By appointment only	Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm	581-1251
DMV (closed until Aug. 24)	Starting Aug. 24, appointment only	Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm	581-2833
Fire / EMS	By appointment only	Monday-Sunday 8am to 6pm	581-5330
Landfill	Normal Operations	Tuesday-Saturday 9am-6pm	581-5757
PCR Community Center	Limited Occupancy Reservation Required	Monday-Friday: 7-10am; 12-2pm; 5-8pm Saturday & Sunday: Noon-4pm	581-1297
Ports & Harbors	By appointment only	Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm	581-1254
Public Library	Curbside Checkout Only (telephone; or email library@ci.unalaska.ak.us); Other services by appointment only	Monday-Friday: 10am-9pm Saturday-Sunday: Noon-6pm	581-5060
Public Safety Lobby	Use Intercom at Entrance	7 Days a Week / 24 Hours a Day	581-1233
Public Works & Utilities	By appointment only	Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm	581-1260