CITY OF UNALASKA



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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 11:45am, News Release no. 236 *Coronavirus COVID-19*

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: HIGH

UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT:

Current Active Cases ------ 30 Industry-Quarantined ----- 0 Community ------ 30

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN: Unified Command has updated the community's Emergency Response Plan. Changes were necessary due to the wide availability of vaccines for COVID-19 and new information learned about the virus. There are now four levels outlining thresholds of risk: Low, Moderate, Substantial and High Risk. Based on today's count of active cases and the continued spike in wastewater surveillance, the community is at **HIGH RISK**, which is defined as widespread COVID-19 cases within the community. Generally, this is defined as 30 or more cases, which are community acquired, travel acquired, and/or household acquired, with consideration for the inclusion of industry-related cases that are a part of the community or who have traveled commercially and test positive upon arrival. The full plan is available on the City Website https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citymanager/page/covid-19-emergency-response-plan and the COVID Data Hub https://covid19-response-unalaska.hub.arcgis.com/.

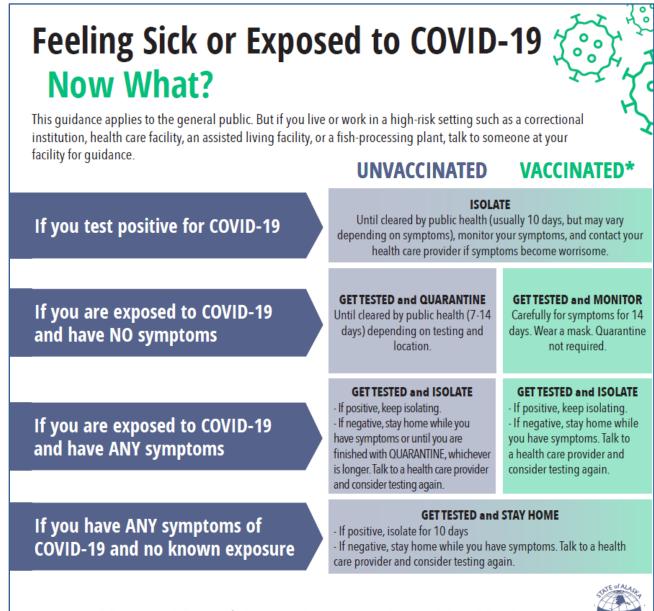
WASTEWATER TESTING: COVID signal in the wastewater stream continues to increase, showing a steep upward trend.

UNALASKA COVID-19 DATA HUB: Please visit (and bookmark) the City's COVID-19 Data Hub for case counts and other information, available 24/7: <u>https://covid19-response-unalaska.hub.arcgis.com/</u>.

CITY COUNCIL / COMMUNITY-WIDE PROTECTIVE MEASURES: The City Council will meet in a special session at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 7 to reassess the local mandate containing community wide protective measures. Information about the meeting and how to participate can be found on the City website: <u>https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/citycouncil/page/special-city-council-meeting-september-7-2021</u>

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE, NOTIFY YOUR CLOSE CONTACTS IMMEDIATELY: If you test positive for COVID-19, both State DHSS and our local IFHS Clinic recommend that you promptly notify anyone with whom you have had "close contact" in the two days before you test positive or from the time you develop symptoms, whichever is earlier, and until you go into isolation after getting the positive result. "Close contact" is defined as anyone with whom a person with COVID-19 has spent more than a cumulative 15 minutes within a 6-foot space in a 24-hour period. The State's contact tracing team is incredibly busy with the huge increase in cases around the State of Alaska, so the sooner people know about possible exposure, the quicker they can quarantine or isolate and get tested if needed. Public health officials will continue to contact those who test positive as soon as they can, but having people notify their own close contacts will help prevent COVID-19 from spreading in our community.

GUIDANCE FROM ALASKA DHSS: Here are the protools to follow in the event you are exposed to COVID-19, depending on your vaccination status and whether or not you have symptoms, or if you are symptomatic and have no known exposure:



* A person is fully vaccinated if two weeks have passed since receiving the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.



Further information is available on the DHSS website at this link: <u>http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/covid-19/nowwhat.aspx</u>

Next Scheduled News Release: Wednesday, September 8, 2021