



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

April 8, 2020, 2:30 pm, News Release no. 27

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: High.

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Unalaska.

Patients tested by IFHS	19
Confirmed Negative Tests	12
Confirmed Positive Tests	0
Pending Test Results	7

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are 226 confirmed cases in the state.

RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) has compiled helpful information and resources for Alaska businesses. There are tools to help in dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and information about working capital loans available now. DCCED will be updating their website as new tools become available at the State and Federal levels. Visit the [Economic Resource Recovery Portal for Businesses](https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/EconomicRecoveryResourcesforBusiness.aspx). Businesses are advised to visit this page periodically for updated information. The full web address is: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/EconomicRecoveryResourcesforBusiness.aspx>

ACCESS TO FORMS: While City Hall is closed to the public, please visit the City Website for forms you may need. There are also paper copies available in the "arctic entry" area between the two sets of doors to City Hall. Right now we have (a) Quarterly Sales Tax Returns; (b) Property Tax Appeal Forms; and (3) Voter Registration Forms. Other forms may be added in the future.

UNALASKA CITY SCHOOLS: Tomorrow (Thursday) is homework pick up day from 9am to 3pm. All students in grades 5-12 will have homework packets to pick up at the school entrance near the pool. Students in grades K-4 only need to drop off or pick up homework if notified by their teacher. Completed homework can be dropped off any time in the drop box.

LOCAL CORONAVIRUS TESTING: The IFHS clinic has been working diligently to obtain the necessary equipment and supplies to provide point of care testing in Unalaska. With the financial support of the Qawalangin Tribe, IFHS has placed an order for a Cepheid GenXpert IV-2 Molecular System which will provide access to point of care testing. We have also received very recent confirmation that Abbott ID Now point of care units are also being provided to our community from both the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium through the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association and the State of Alaska through the Alaska Primary Care Association. We will be able to receive test results in under an hour in the weeks to

come which is very helpful in determining next steps. We do want to reinforce that access to the test kits is also an important component to being able to provide point of care testing. It is important to note that there will continue to be a screening process to identify individuals that meet the criteria for testing which is expected to expand as testing supplies become more available. Additional details will be shared in upcoming press releases.

PEOPLE CONSIDERED “HIGH RISK” FOR SEVERE ILLNESS: Based on the questions received during the KUCB Radio Call-In Show yesterday, IFHS Clinic Staff provided the following list of conditions considered at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart conditions
 - People who are immune-compromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immune-compromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

People in these groups are urged to take the following steps to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often and avoid touching your face
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched services
- Stay home if possible
- Keep 6 feet space between yourself and others (even grandchildren)
- Keep away from people who are sick
- Wear a cloth face covering in public places
- Consider asking others to bring groceries to your house
- Call your healthcare professional if you have concerns about COVID-19 and your underlying condition or if you are sick

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

RESOURCES FOR INFORMATION:

- World Health Organization (WHO) <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov
- State of Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services – www.coronavirus.alaska.gov
- City of Unalaska – www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus
- Report COVID-19 Mandate Violations: (907) 359-1323 or Sgt. Wood at kwood@ci.unalaska.ak.us

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