



CITY OF UNALASKA

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www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus

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NEWS RELEASE

April 17, 2020, 3:00pm, News Release no. 34

Coronavirus COVID-19

LOCAL RISK FACTOR: High.

CITY OF UNALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Unalaska. The two pending tests are awaiting results from state labs. Because we now have local testing capability, once results are received for those two tests, we will no longer have pending test results.

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|--------------------------|----|
| Patients tested by IFHS | 31 |
| Confirmed Negative Tests | 29 |
| Confirmed Positive Tests | 0 |
| Pending Test Results | 2 |

STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 CASE COUNT: There are 309 confirmed cases in the state.

COVID-19 LOCAL RESPONSE: Looking back over the past month, an incredible amount of work has been done in Unalaska to respond to the COVID-19 public health crisis in order to protect the health and well-being of everyone who lives and works here. We are complying with the Governor's mandates closing many public places and businesses, and mandates requiring travelers to quarantine, prohibiting travel within the state, for social distancing and more. In addition to changes we've all had to make personally, so many organizations, businesses and individuals have contributed expertise, supplies, labor, time, and so much more to come together and help each other and to help our community.

In March the City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center using the Incident Command System to provide a framework for coordinated communications, preparedness and response within the community. This has since expanded to Unified Command with the Clinic, School District, Q-Tribe and USAFV participating. Unified Command meets daily and programs and objectives to date include:

- Quarantine Site is ready to go if needed
- Emergency Food Distribution Program is ready to go if needed
- Drive-thru COVID-19 Testing Site at Clinic will soon be operational
- Daily News Releases related to coronavirus are distributed in the community
- Liaison Officers are interfacing with the business community, answering questions and providing resources
- Public Safety and Ports personnel meet incoming flights and vessels to provide information on quarantine orders, symptom-monitoring, social distancing and face covering requirements

- Procurement of supplies for emergency response programs and objectives is ongoing
- Emergency Shelter Program is in the planning phase
- Utility Account Hardship Relief Program implemented
- Local mandate violation reporting hotline opened

Aside from Unified Command, the City of Unalaska has also independently taken many steps in response this public health emergency, including:

- Closing City Facilities to the public (except the landfill), while operating with staggered schedules and minimal staffing to continue critical services to the community, while maintaining social distancing to protect our employees
- City Council issued emergency stay at home orders, travel quarantine orders, requirements for use of face coverings in businesses, and for businesses to submit or post COVID-19 protection plans
- City Council made funds available for the emergency response effort
- City Council granted \$500,000 to the IFHS Clinic for continued operations

Q-TRIBE: The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska has been active in helping elders in the community during this health crisis. In addition to donating funds to the clinic to purchase a testing unit and participating in the emergency operations center, the Tribe and Senior Center staff have been providing grocery shopping services for residents of the Senior Center and care packages of fresh produce and other goodies, as well as cleaning products. Q-Tribe Staff taught themselves how to make face coverings and are hard at work sewing masks for elders on sewing machines loaned by APIA. If other seniors on the island need help, please contact the Tribe Office at 581-2920.

KUCB RADIO CALL-IN SHOW TODAY AT 5PM: KUCB will host a live call-in show with Unalaska's Mayor Vincent Tutiakoff, City Manager Erin Reinders and Clinic Director Melanee Tiura, discussing actions being taken to protect our community from COVID-19, and the local response if the virus arrives in Unalaska. Tune in to 89.7 today at 5pm. Questions can be emailed in advance to news@kucb.org or called in during the live show to 581-1888.

RESOURCES:

- Local social services support (food, supplies and more) call USAFV at 581-1500
- USAFV Toll-Free 24-Hour Crisis Line (907) 478-7238 or 581-1500
- Report COVID-19 Mandate Violations (907) 359-1323 or Sgt. Wood at kwood@ci.unalaska.ak.us
- City of Unalaska website www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/coronavirus
- State of Alaska COVID-19 website <https://covid19.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska DHSS Response Hub: <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Governor Dunleavy's Health Mandates <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website www.cdc.gov
- World Health Organization (WHO) website <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Next News Release Scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2020

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