



Health Services COVID-19 Situation Report

6/5/2020

Dear Community Members,

There isn't a vaccine against COVID-19 yet. A vaccine preventable disease is an infectious disease for which an effective vaccine exists. Fewer childhood vaccines have been given during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 14 vaccines available to protect children from other serious diseases. Delaying or missing vaccines could put your child, your family and community at risk for these diseases.

To avoid outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and to keep children safe and protected, keeping up-to-date with vaccinations is essential. We want to help keep you healthy and avoid preventable diseases. Measles and pertussis (whooping cough) are still out there and children need this protection.

This week our pharmacist sent out a detailed report of vaccines due to every clinic. We will be placing outreach calls to schedule appointments for vaccines due. In the meantime, check to see if your child is up-to-date on their vaccinations and contact the clinic to schedule an appointment.

As of today, Alaska has 524 confirmed cases, 380 recovered cases, 48 hospitalizations, & 10 deaths.

ANMC's currently COVID-19 inpatient status update- 0 positive inpatient and 2 suspected inpatient.

Chugachmiut COVID-19 Testing:

(Weekly Testing #s reported from 12:00pm Wednesday to 12:00pm following Wednesday)

	Testing This Week	Testing YTD	Results Negative	Pending Results	Results Positive	Testing Collection Kits to ANMC	Rapid Testing Kits
Chenege	0	1	1	0	0	100	71
Nanwalek	4	32	28	4		62	188
Port Graham	18	53	40	13		147	121
Seward	7	31	30	1		82	134
Tatitlek	0	6	6	0	0	115	100
TOTAL	29	123	105	18		506	614

What's New?

COVID-19 Health Mandate 010: International & Interstate Travel, Revised June 3 and effective June 6: The governor recently updated this mandate. Given the high risk populations throughout Chugach Region, we want to express our concern with regard to this updated mandate- not following a 14 day self-quarantine for travelers will put the communities we serve at risk.

Per the World Health Organization (WHO) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) the incubation period for COVID-19 can be 0-14 days. Timing is everything when testing for the virus. Within the



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early stages of infection, a person can test negative for the infection and still shed the virus. Although most who have been infected start exhibiting symptoms on days 4-5, there have been cases discovered as late as days 11-12. That's why the expert organizations mentioned above recommend a 14 day self-quarantine.

This mandate does not discuss the risk communities will subject themselves to when basing decisions for travelers coming into their communities solely on COVID-19 testing results. It gives a false sense of assurance to individuals that they are not infected and are no risk to others in spreading the virus.

The Governors Mandate may make sense from a state wide perspective and be successful in the larger communities where impact of a surge of cases is manageable, however, the risk of uncontrolled spread in a small isolated community is high and this strategy puts our villages at considerable risk if even a single case enters where spread could happen very quickly.

Therefore, we highly recommend tribes to exercise their authority to protect the health and safety of their communities by continuing to enforce a 14-day self-quarantine for any travelers coming into their communities. With recent increased cases in Alaska and in the lower 48, this updated mandate WILL increase the risk to all Alaskans.

We developed a traveler education packet for your communities (much like the medical traveler packet) to help travelers understand what resources are available and precautions to take to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Across all communities within region, approximately 44% of residents are considered "high risk" for severe illness for COVID-19, based on criteria established by the CDC. (COVID-19 Surveillance and Analytics Report Data for Region).

Local Clinic Service Updates:

- **COVID-19 Testing:** All clinics have testing capabilities and adequate supply to support testing.
- **Clinic Services:** Clinics continue to not accept walk-in appointments and remain available to schedule appointments.
- **Dental Services:** Prior to starting dental services in Seward this week, staff were tested for COVID-19. Any dental procedures that could potentially produce aerosols, patients were tested for COVID-19. Dr. Murphy continues to be available remotely to support any village dental concerns. SCF village travel is still on hold until further notice.
- **First Responders:** N-95 mask fitting continues. One (1) stryker medical transfer flat was sent to each village to help with easy transfer of patients.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Preparations for Prevention & Mitigation, Testing & Response:**
Meetings were cancelled this week and will resume next week.
Nanwalek's follow-up meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 at 11:30am.
Tatitlek's follow-up meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 1:00pm.
Port Graham's follow-up meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 3:00pm.
Chenege's and Seward's follow-up meetings will be scheduled upon request of Tribal Council.



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- **Response Team:** We continue to work on response team coordination and logistics to be ready and available when a positive case is confirmed within your community.
- **MyHealth Enrollment:** Do you want immediate access to your test results, clinical documents, medication list, and the ability to connect with your provider and care team, or view and request appointments? Contact clinic to enroll and gain access to YOUR MyHealth account.

Community & Family Services Division Updates:

- **Counseling Services:** The clinical staff is meeting with people throughout the region while following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in order to maintain "social distancing" while working from home. Staff members are calling, Skyping, using Facetime, and even texting- and receiving the same- to ensure that no one feels alone through these times of international pandemic.
- **Crisis Line:** For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency response, our Crisis Line is also working as a point of contact to link people up with their preferred counselors. Please feel free to call our Crisis Line number: 1-844-891-0444.
- **Group Support:** The behavioral health team continues to offer virtual/online groups to address mental health issues and to ensure that our partners in sobriety can maintain their resolve to stay clean and sober. We are holding regular AA meetings with an attendance of as many as 8. We are also hosting Zoom group meetings on a variety of topics. If interested in joining one of these groups, please feel free to call our Crisis Line number: 1-844-891-0444.

What are the most reliable resources to get updates?

Alaska DHSS COVID-19 website: <http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>

CDC COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Sincerely,

Kelley Baker, Health Services Division Director