



Health Services COVID-19 Situation Report

12/18/2020

Dear Community Members,

We are starting to see a decline in virus spread in many regions of Alaska. However, we are still on high alert status with widespread community transmission occurring and hospitals across the state continue to show limited inpatient capacity.

Our actions to protect ourselves and others make a difference. Please continue to remain vigilant and keep up with your precaution efforts heading into the holidays. The safest way to celebrate the holidays this year is at home with the people you live with. Travel and holiday gatherings pose high risk. Any gathering with non-household members, even with family or close friends, can increase the chances of spreading the virus to loved ones and contribute to another rise in cases.

If you decide to gather with others outside your household, meet outdoors if you can. If you choose to meet indoors, choose a well-ventilated space, open windows and doors, have space to spread out, wear a mask when you're not eating, avoid sharing plates, cups and utensils, wash hands, and please ask those who are sick or those who have recently traveled and in quarantine to stay home.

Current Case Counts in Alaska

New Resident Cases Yesterday 485 Updated Daily by Noon	Total Resident Cases 41,905 <small>Cumulative (includes recovered cases)</small>	Currently Hospitalized 122 Confirmed COVID Positive	Total Resident 182 Deaths Statewide
New Nonresident Cases Yesterday 10 Updated Daily by Noon	Total Nonresident Cases 1,447 <small>Cumulative (includes recovered cases)</small>	Total Hospitalizations 928 <small>Cumulative (does not reflect current stays)</small>	Total Nonresident 1 Deaths Statewide

Chugachmiut COVID-19 Testing:

	Testing Past Two Weeks	Testing YTD	Results Negative YTD	Pending Results YTD	Results Positive YTD	Testing Collection Kits to ANMC	ID Now Rapid Testing Kits	Binax Now Rapid Testing Kits
Chenege	5	104	104	0	0	223	73	40
Nanwalek	22	411	411	0	0	139	122	40
Port Graham	12	351	351	0	0	169	139	40
Seward	36	499	471	0	28	324	97	74
Tatitlek	7	105	105	0	0	208	101	37
Total	82	1470	1442	0	28	1063	532	231



What's New?

Governor Dunleavy Extends State's COVID-19 Public Health Disaster Response: Effective December 16th through January 15, 2021, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Alaska.

COVID-19 Vaccine: As of today, two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) have been approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use to help combat this deadly pandemic. Alaska received its initial allocation of Pfizer vaccine this week and will receive the Moderna vaccine next week. December's vaccine allocation is very limited and first available to:

- Hospital-based front-line health care workers at highest risk for COVID-19 infection
- Long-term care facility residents and staff (defined to include skilled nursing facilities, assisted living homes, and Department of Corrections infirmaries providing care that is similar to assisted living)
- EMS and fire personnel providing medical services
- Community Health Aides/Practitioners
- Individuals who are required to perform vaccinations

Vaccine will be offered to Alaskans in phases. As more vaccine becomes available, it will be offered to more groups of people over time.



Bring Back the Light 2020: Join fellow Alaskans by shining a light at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 20th in a moment of celebration, solidarity and reflection. Step outside with others in your household and light a candle or turn on lights, flashlights, headlamps or a lantern. Choose a place where you can be safe and comfortable. Together, but safely apart, let's bring back the light! Prior to the event, feel free to share photos or videos of your lanterns, ice candles or lights. During the event, please take photos or videos and share them on social media. Use the hashtags #LightforAlaskans, #WithYouAlaska or #BringBackLight.

Local Clinic Service Updates:

- **Clinic Services:** Please **DO NOT** delay necessary medical care. Call the clinic to schedule an appointment (currently not accepting walk-ins). Upcoming holiday hours for clinics & pharmacy:
Christmas Eve 12/24- Close at 12:00pm
Christmas Day 12/25- Closed for holiday
New Year's Eve 12/31- Close at 3:00pm
New Year's Day 1/1- Closed for holiday
Clinic Staff will be on-call for emergencies during early closures & holidays.



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- **Dental Services:** Dr. Murphy remains on-call for any dental emergencies.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** Get tested at the first sign of any symptoms. Testing is our best tool for understanding virus transmission and risk in your community. Thanks to the Alaska Area IHS an additional rapid testing analyzer arrived in Nanwalek this week to support testing needs!
- **Flu Vaccine: It's not too late to get a flu shot!** The higher percentage of those who receive a flu shot will provide better protection and help to prevent hospitalizations. Chugachmiut & Chugach Alaska Corporation teamed up to offer weekly and monthly prizes to encourage YOU to get your flu shot. Check out Facebook! **Goal to reach at least 60%!**

The table below shows community progress towards protection against flu:

Date Range 9/1/2020 to 11/30/2020			
Flu Vaccine Coverage Rates by Community	2020 Patients	2020 Vaccinated Patients	2020 Vaccination Rate
Chenege	58	24	41%
Nanwalek	272	129	47%
Port Graham	165	48	29%
Seward	642	187	29%
Tatitlek	86	44	51%
TOTAL FLU VACCINE	1223	432	35%

A patient is determined to be part of this region based on his or her home address. Note the patient population described above differs from the one used on earlier versions of reporting.

- **COVID-19 Vaccine:** We have NOT received vaccine at our clinics yet. Vaccine will be available very soon (within the next few weeks). Once vaccine becomes available, we plan to host safe socially distanced “vaccine clinics” within your communities. Meaning designated days and times will be set aside to administer vaccines to those interested. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses several weeks apart.

It's important to us that you have all the information you need to help you make a well informed decision about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Please join us on Wednesday, December 30th, at 3:00pm, for an Informational Meeting on the COVID-19 Vaccine. Questions are encouraged and welcomed!

How: Virtual Zoom Meeting @ Meeting ID: 933 2776 0157 or call 1-888-475-4499 and enter meeting ID or type in link <https://chugachmiut-org.zoom.us/j/93327760157>

Community COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Surveys- Thank you to those who have completed surveys! The information collected will really help us with vaccine distribution planning for your





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community. If your household hasn't completed a survey yet, please contact your local clinic or tribal council (information can be collected from a safe distance over the phone).

- **Universal Masking:** It is our collective responsibility to exemplify and uphold a culture of health and safety. Chugachmiut has a universal masking requirement for all staff, contractors, patients and visitors in all Chugachmiut operated medical and dental clinics and pharmacy to best protect our staff, patients and communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **MyHealth Enrollment:** Do you want immediate access to your medical record 24/7 to get 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:

- **Winter "Laugh and Learn" Series:** Temporarily on hold due to Christmas & New Year holidays. Will start up again the first week of January on Wednesday, January 6th at 2:00pm.
- **Llangarwik Recovery Camp:** Offered virtually through Zoom and planned for January 25th through February 7th. Call the Crisis Line if you're interested in attending!



Best Wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Kelley Baker, Health Services Division Director