



COVID-19

COVID-19 Update for Alaska's Health Care Providers

Updated February 29, 2020

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation. We want to make sure you have the latest information. Here are key updates for Alaska's health care providers.

- NO cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Alaska.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has extensive resources available for health care providers on their [COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Professionals webpage](#).
- The DHSS Section of Epidemiology is continuing to host COVID-19 Situational Awareness calls for health care providers on a regular basis. To participate in those calls, email DHSSEOC@alaska.gov
- The Section of Epidemiology forwarded CDC's HAN Update to Alaska's health care providers on February 28 through the [Alaska Public Health Alert Network](#). The HAN reflects the CDC's recent changes in the [definition of PUI](#) (persons under investigation). To subscribe to AK PHAN alerts, click [here](#).
- The current PUI guidance broadens the relevant travel history outside of China to include all "affected geographic areas" where sustained community transmission has been identified (i.e., a country/region with a CDC Level 2 or 3 [Travel Health Notice](#)).
- The PUI criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. In consultation with public health departments, patients should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for testing.
- Testing for novel coronavirus is now available at Alaska Public Health Laboratories. Read the recent [DHSS press release](#) for more information.
- Health care providers should **contact SOE at 907-269-8000, or 800-478-0084 after-hours**, to report Persons Under Investigation (PUI) and to obtain approval to test patients for COVID-19 at the State Public Health Laboratory.
- Please check the DHSS [Human Coronavirus website](#) and the [CDC COVID-19 website](#) frequently for the latest information.