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**Department of Health
and Social Services**

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ten new cases of COVID-19 detected

March 26, 2020 ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) today announced 10 new positive cases of COVID-19 in four Alaska communities— Anchorage (5), Fairbanks (2), North Pole (2), and Juneau (1). This brings Alaska’s total case count to 69.

Six of these cases are still under investigation; the remaining four are close contacts of previously diagnosed cases. Most individuals are adults, but two are younger adults (aged 19-29) and one is a child. The child is a relative of a previously diagnosed case, and is the first youth to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

“We now have convincing evidence of community transmission in three Alaska communities— Anchorage, Fairbanks and Ketchikan,” said Dr. Joe McLaughlin, Alaska’s State Epidemiologist. “This means that COVID-19 cases are being identified in people in these communities who have had no recent out-of-state travel and no identified link to another person with confirmed COVID-19 infection. This heightens the need for vigilant adherence to social distancing measures and prompt home isolation of people who develop any symptoms of respiratory infection.”

The CDC provides these [guidelines on what to do if you are sick](#). Of the total cases, three have been hospitalized.

So far the communities in Alaska that have had laboratory-confirmed cases include Anchorage (including JBER), Eagle River/Chugiak, Homer, Seward, Soldotna, Sterling, Fairbanks, North Pole, Palmer, Ketchikan and Juneau.

As a reminder, please follow these guidelines to STOP THE SPREAD of COVID-19:

- Wash hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes and clean frequently-touched surfaces.
- Keep at least six feet away from others. Stay home and work from home as much as possible.
- If you are sick with a respiratory infection, even with mild symptoms, isolate yourself from others and call ahead if you need medical attention.
- In accordance with Governor Dunleavy’s COVID-19 Health Mandate 009, issued March 23, remember:
 - No gatherings of more than 10 people may take place.
 - If a gathering does take place, people must be six feet apart from each other.

- Follow all health mandates and guidance issued by Governor Mike Dunleavy, DHSS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local governments and health authorities.

Stay informed:

- Alaska's Response
 - Find more information about how to keep yourself and your family healthy at the DHSS webpage, coronavirus.alaska.gov
 - Visit the governor's webpage on COVID-19 at gov.alaska.gov/covid19news
 - Visit ready.alaska.gov/covid19 on the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management webpage for Unified Command information, community press releases and other documents.
- [United States response](#): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention leads the U.S. response.
- [Global response](#): The World Health Organization guides the global response.

This press release covers new cases between March 25 at 3 p.m. and March 26 at 3 p.m. when daily case counts are updated at coronavirus.alaska.gov.

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