

**COVID-19 in Alaska**

# **DHSS updates and metrics**

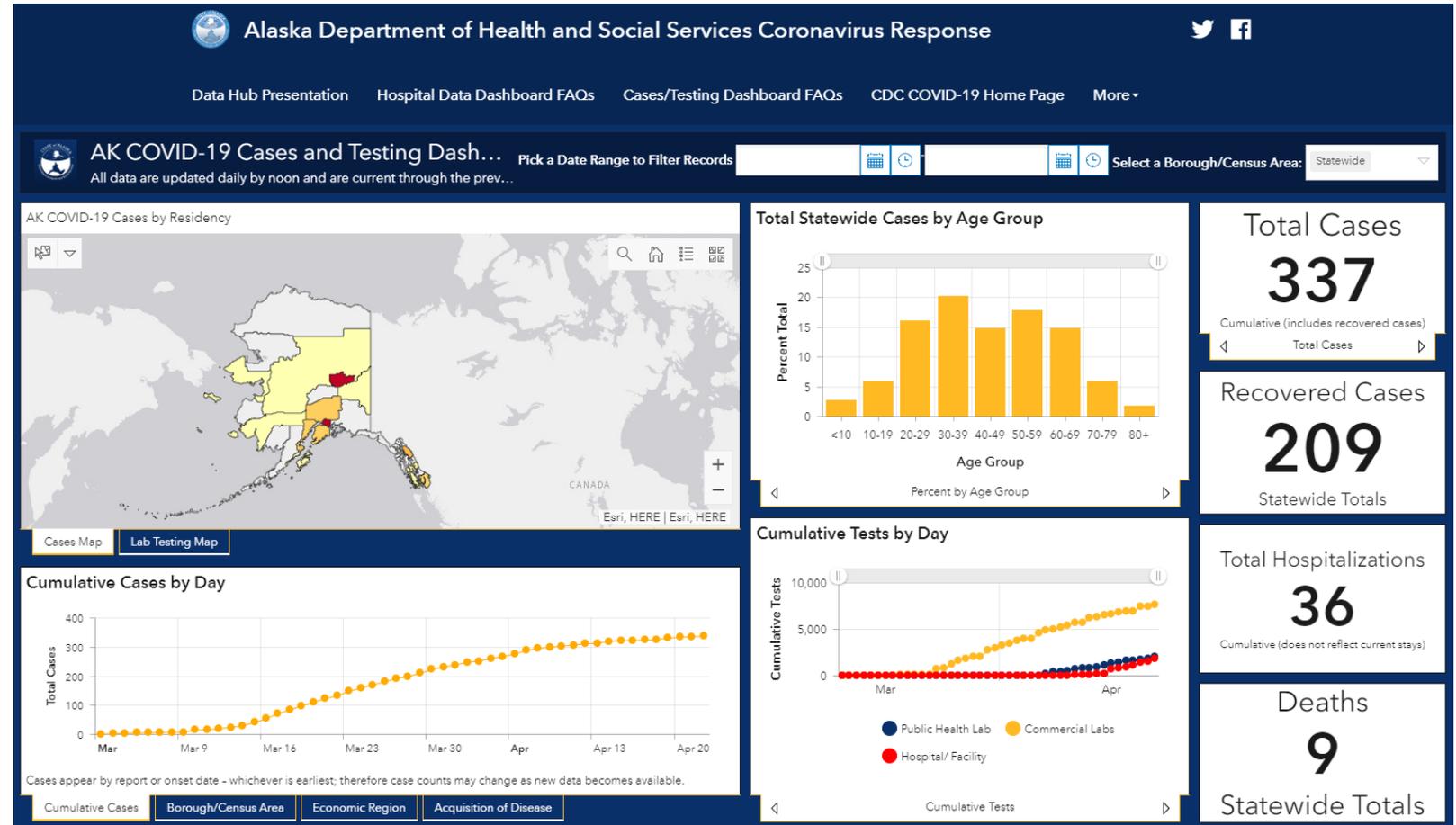
**Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska's Chief Medical Officer**

**April 23, 2020**



# Updates on the COVID-19 Dashboard: 4/23

- 2 new cases reported  
4/22/2020
- 13 additional recovered cases
- No new additional deaths
- No new hospitalizations
- 11,473 cumulative tests
- 631 new tests since yesterday
- 2.9% of tests were positive



# When can we lift restrictions?



**GO:** If we're seeing downward trends and all is going well, we'll methodically move to **lift restrictions**.



**PROCEED WITH CAUTION:** If the situation is stable or we are seeing a slow increase in cases, we may ask for **voluntary measures to flatten the curve**.



**STOP:** If we are seeing a consistent or rapid increase in cases or if we think we are running out of capacity to care for people with COVID-19 (regardless of the trend in cases), then we will need to **re-implement some restrictions**.

## Different areas may follow different rules

- We can use geography to our advantage to prevent cases from spreading. Local authorities may choose stricter or more liberal rules depending on their unique situation.
- Different communities may implement different phases at different times. This will allow for more precise control of COVID-19.



# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## Positive cases in Alaska continue to trend down

Projected Epidemic Curve

Projected Cumulative Cases

Methods

### IMPORTANT:

The decreasing trend is likely a result of adherence to the many health mandates. As mandates are lifted we will track this closely to monitor any changes in COVID-19 cases.

### NOTE:

Please review the methods tab regularly to learn about any changes or updates to the model and/or measurements.

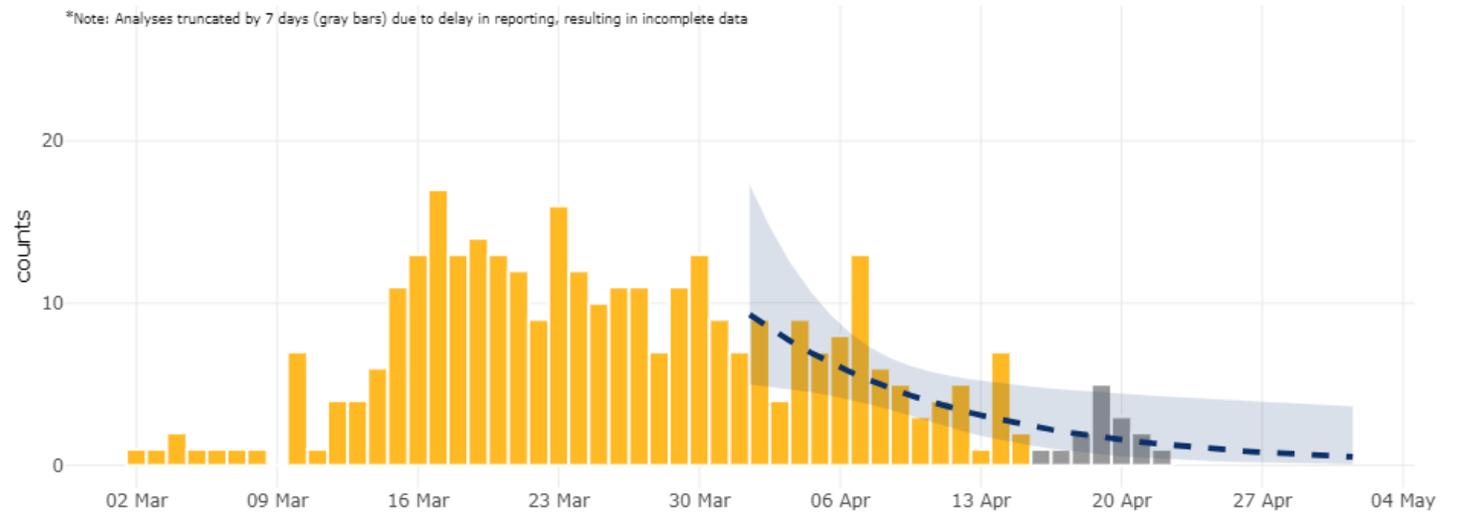
Plots

Interpretation

### Epidemic curve by onset date, Alaska

(log-linear model: short term forecast with 95% confidence band)

\*Note: Analyses truncated by 7 days (gray bars) due to delay in reporting, resulting in incomplete data



### Projection Statistics

Halving Time	Halving Time Lower CI	Halving Time Upper CI
7.24	3.92	47.46





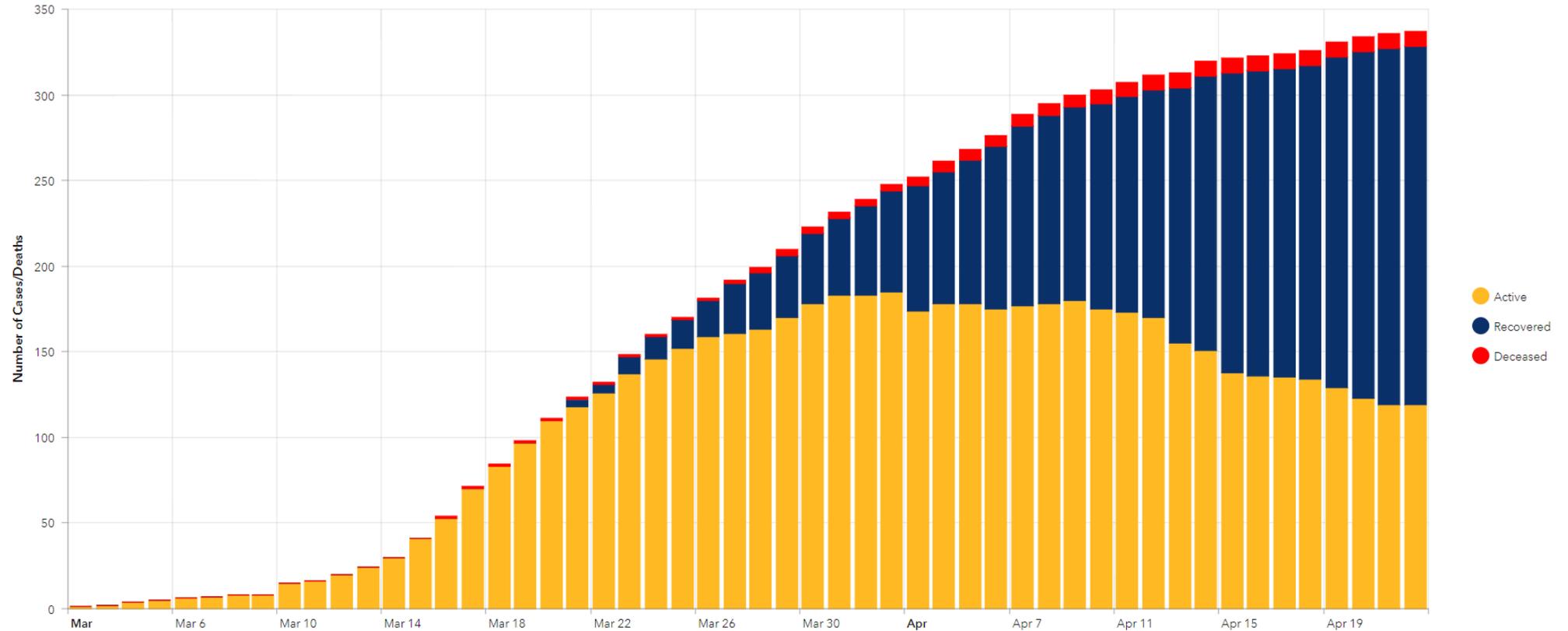
# AK COVID-19 Cumulative Cases by Death, Recovered, and Active Status

All data are updated daily at noon and are current through the previous day

Economic Region: Statewide



## Cumulative Cases by Death, Recovered, and Active Status



# Statewide

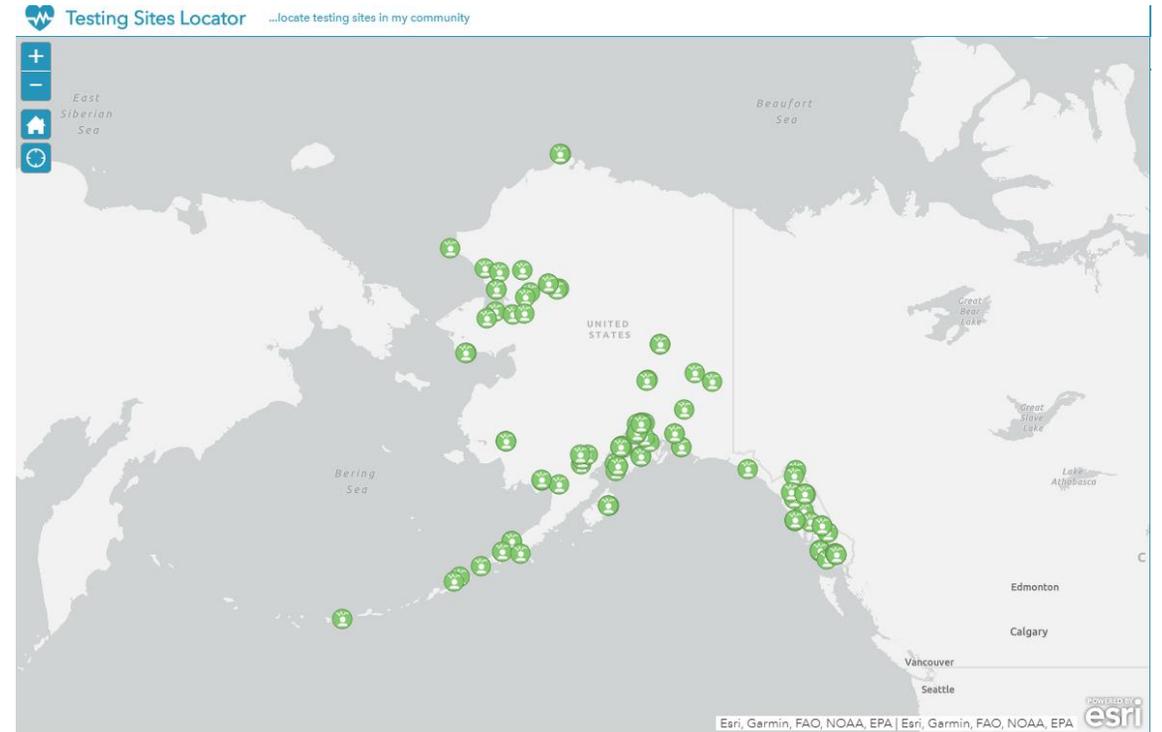




## TESTING

# Testing capacity in Alaska continues to increase

- There are now 115 sites where you can get tested (sample collection sites).
- More than 60 facilities throughout Alaska are able to perform COVID-19 testing in addition to state public health laboratories and commercial laboratories.
- Public health centers will now be offering referrals for testing and will also be sample collection sites in some areas.



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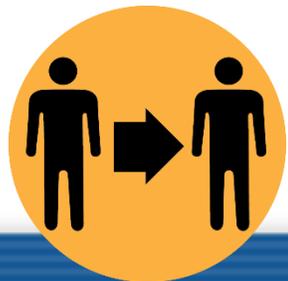




## PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY

# Monitoring and contact investigations

- The State of Alaska has over 100 people working on this now and we plan to expand more moving forward.
- State epidemiologists, working with the Anchorage Health Department and other local partners, have been able to investigate and follow every case in Alaska.

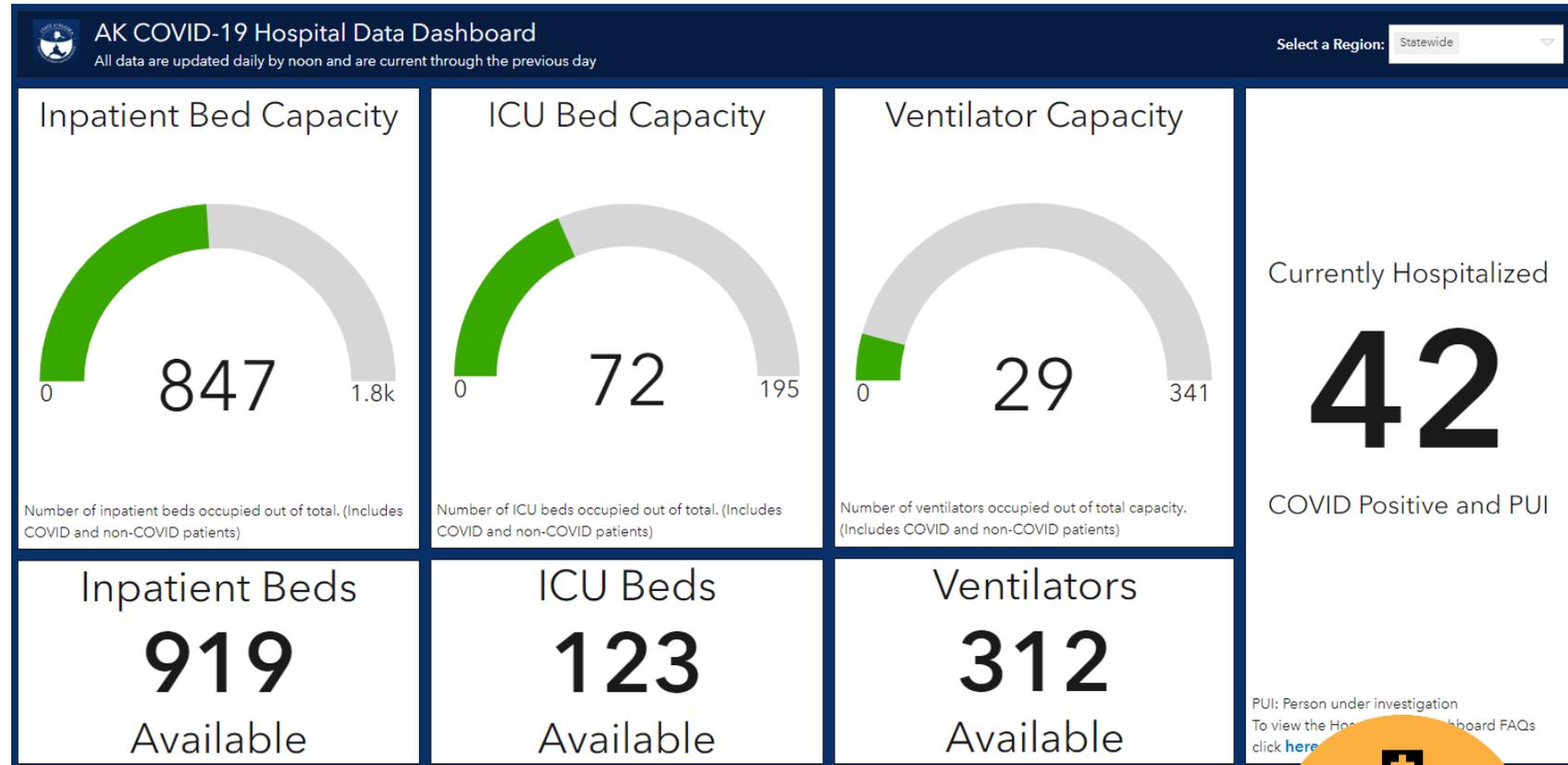




## HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

# Alaska hospitals have capacity for patient care

- Are people seeking care for symptoms that could be COVID-19?
- Can we care for every COVID-19 patient who needs care?
- Do we have sufficient capacity to care for other patients?



# Long-term care facilities in Alaska

- Collaborated 1:1 calls with long-term care facilities that included Survey & Certification, ASHNHA, EPI and State Medicaid
- Weekly calls with LTC and Survey & Certification and State EPI to discuss new waivers, regulation changes, CDC guidelines and various topics brought up by LTCs
- Provided each LTC with assessment tools for Infection Control Surveys
- Survey & Certification offered 1:1 calls with facilities related to COVID issues.
- Issued Health Alert 003, Limiting Exposure at Long Term Care Facilities providing evidence-based guidelines on safeguarding patients and staff



# Thank you, Alaska. Everyone is essential.

- Questions regarding DHSS COVID response, including mandates and alerts, can be sent to: [covidquestions@alaska.gov](mailto:covidquestions@alaska.gov).
- Questions regarding DHSS data can be sent to: [data.coronavirus@alaska.gov](mailto:data.coronavirus@alaska.gov)
- For general questions, contact 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221. Extended call center hours: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., 7 days a week.



McNeil River bears practicing social distancing.