

**COVID-19 in Alaska**

# **DHSS updates/metrics/testing FAQ**

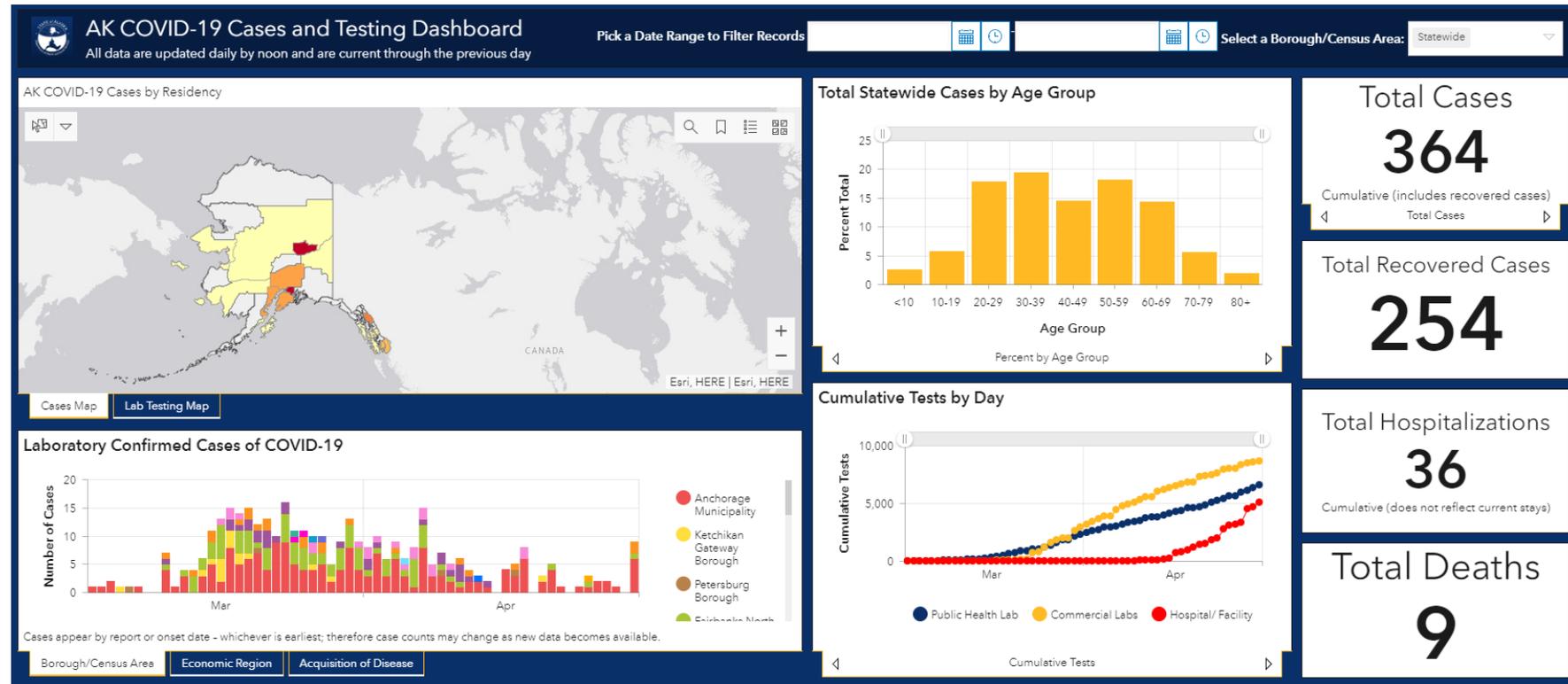
**Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska's Chief Medical Officer**

**May 1, 2020**



# Updates on the COVID-19 Dashboard: 5/1

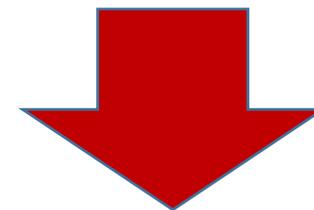
- 9 new cases reported 4/30/2020
- 2 additional recovered cases
- No new additional deaths
- No new hospitalization
- 20,325 cumulative tests
- 1.7% of tests were positive



# Mitigation strategies continue to be very important



**Community**



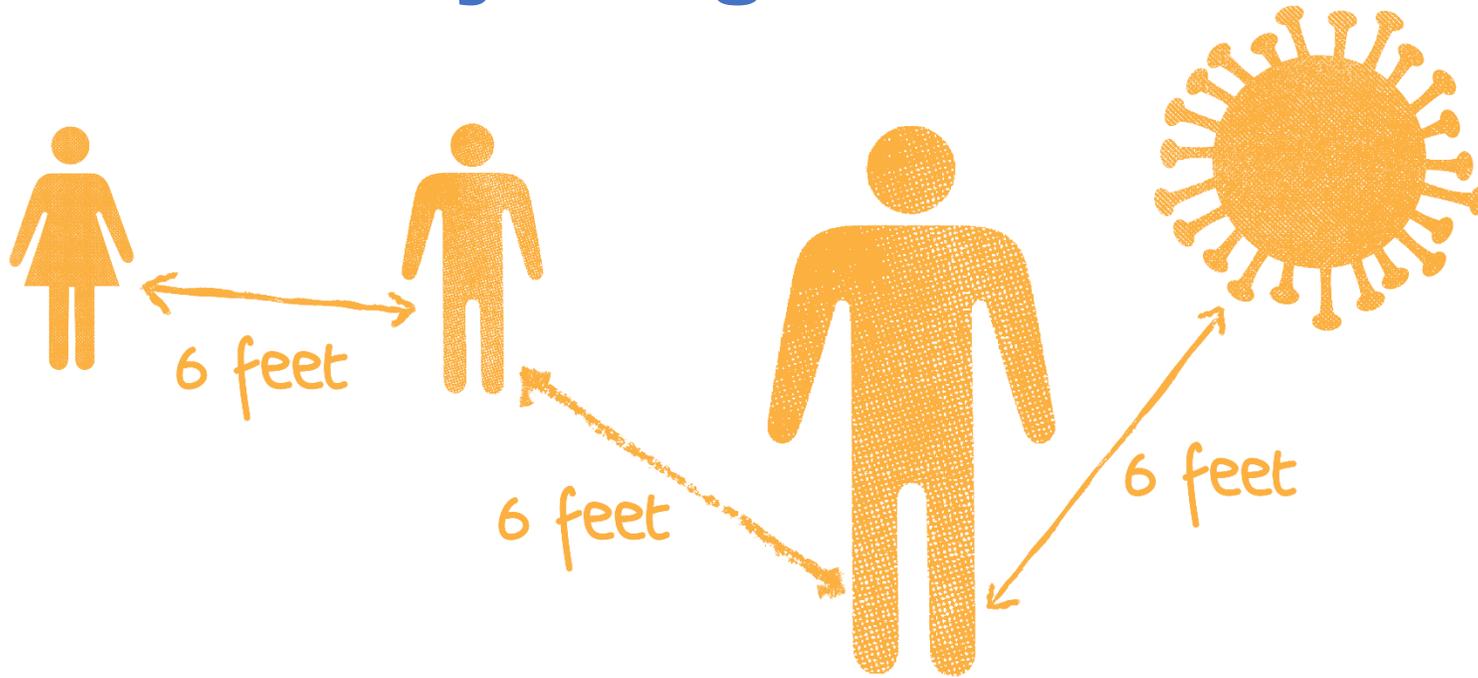
**Personal**



**Environmental**



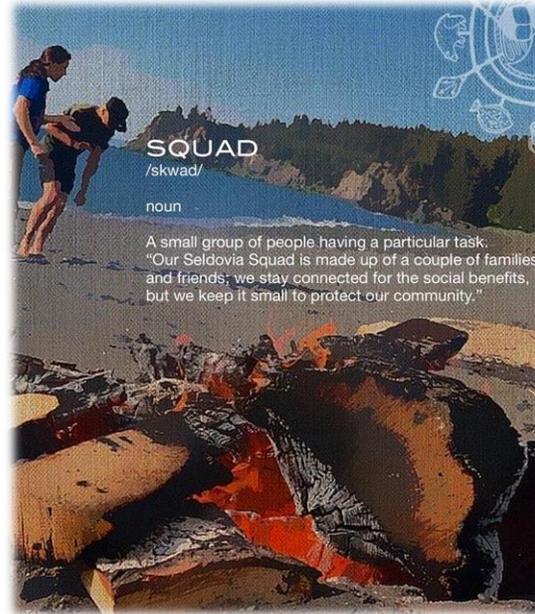
# Community Mitigation



- As Alaska reopens, social distancing remains an extremely important strategy.
- Individuals should also consider their personal level of risk.
- Alaskans 65 and older or anyone with underlying health conditions should continue to minimize their exposure to others, including household members who have returned to work or are going out in public.

# Community Mitigation

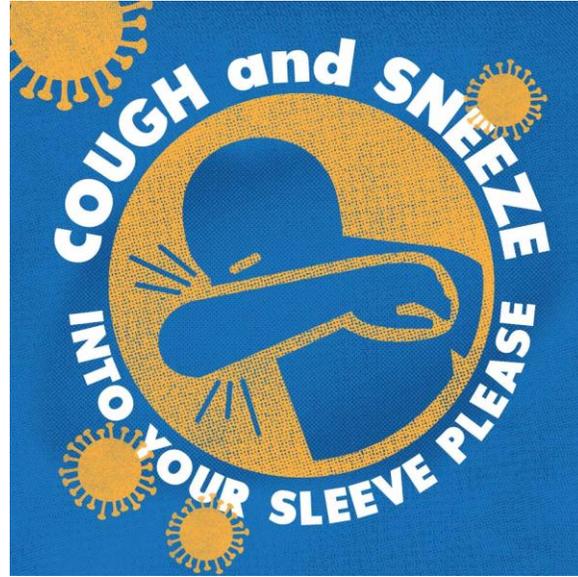
- Stay within your “bubble,” “squad” or household team.
- Keep your social circle small. Go on outings with the same person or small group. Keep at least six feet away from non-household members.
- Gatherings of no more than 20 people are allowed.



Seldovia Village Tribe



# Personal Mitigation



# Environmental Mitigation



- Routine surface cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys, refrigerator handles, desks, and door knobs
- In homes, childcare facilities, schools, workplaces, and other settings where people regularly gather.
- Cleaning and disinfection.

# Checking our metrics



**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 **reinstate some restrictions**.

## Different areas may follow different rules

- We can use geography to our advantage to prevent cases from spreading. Local authorities can work with the State of Alaska if more strict or more liberal rules are needed, depending on their unique situation.
- Working with the State of Alaska, different communities may implement different phases at different times. This will allow for more precise control of COVID-19.

# Key Interventions <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

**Restrictions (Red line):**

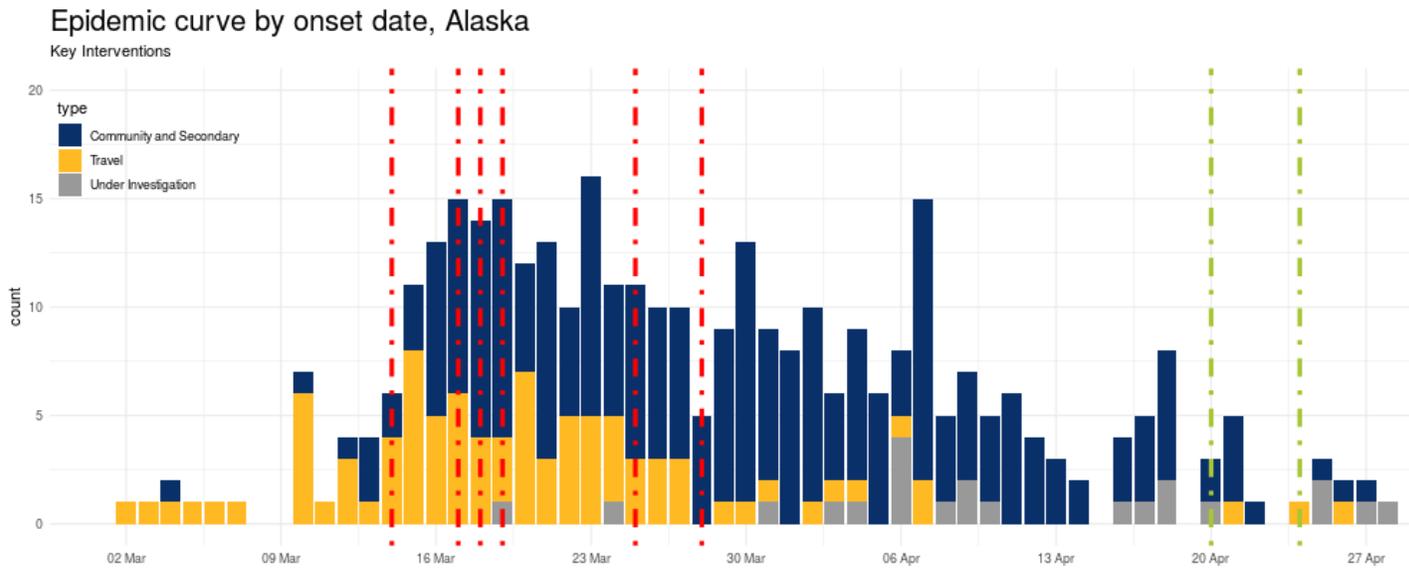
- Mandate 1
- Mandate 3
- Mandate 4
- Mandate 5
- Mandate 10
- Mandates 11 & 12

**Restrictions lifted (Green line):**

- Mandate 15
- Mandate 16

NOTE: This graphic depicts when the various health mandates were implemented or relaxed (i.e. lifted) in relation to our observed epidemic curve. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather highlights health mandates that have broad impacts.

The epidemic curve is based on date of onset of symptoms. When the onset date is not yet known, the report date or hospitalization date (whichever is first) is used as a temporary substitution.

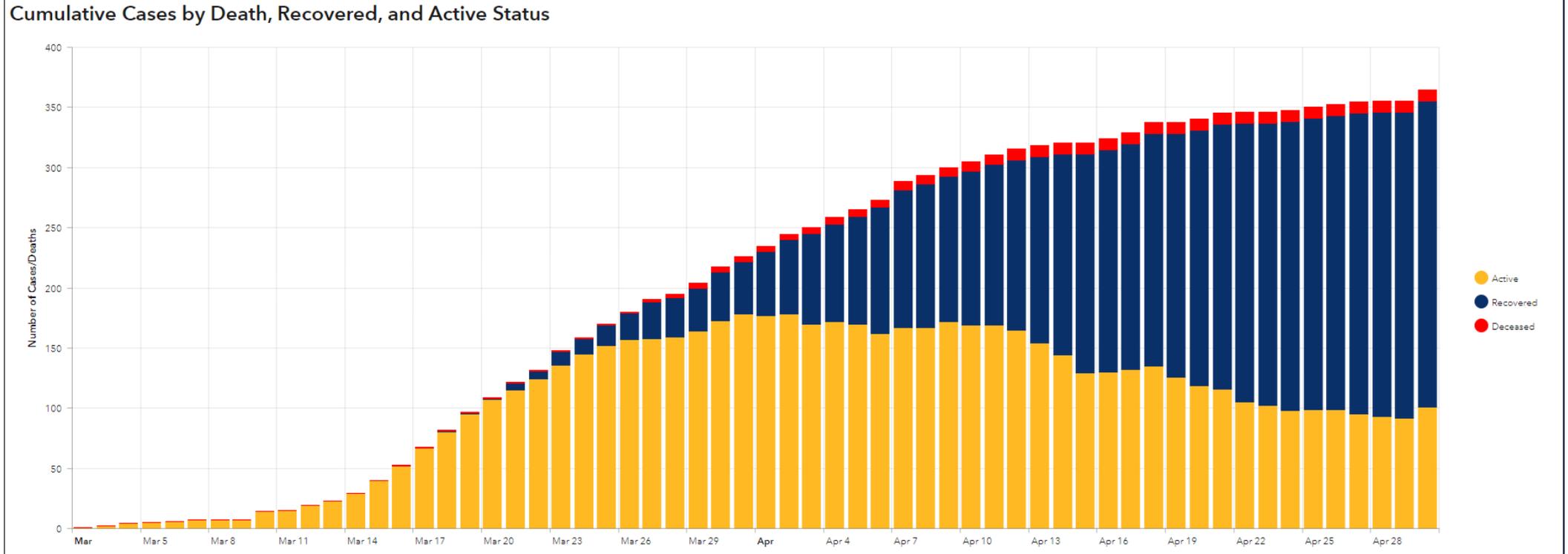


Mandate	Effective_Date	Description
Mandate 1	3/14	School Closure/Suspend Visitation at State Facilities
Mandate 4	3/17	Quarantine for Travelers from Level 3 Areas
Mandate 3	3/18	Close Restaurants/Bars/Entertainment



# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## Cumulative cases by death, recovered and active status



# Statewide





# Epidemic curve

Projected Epidemic Curve    Projected Cumulative Cases    Key Interventions    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.

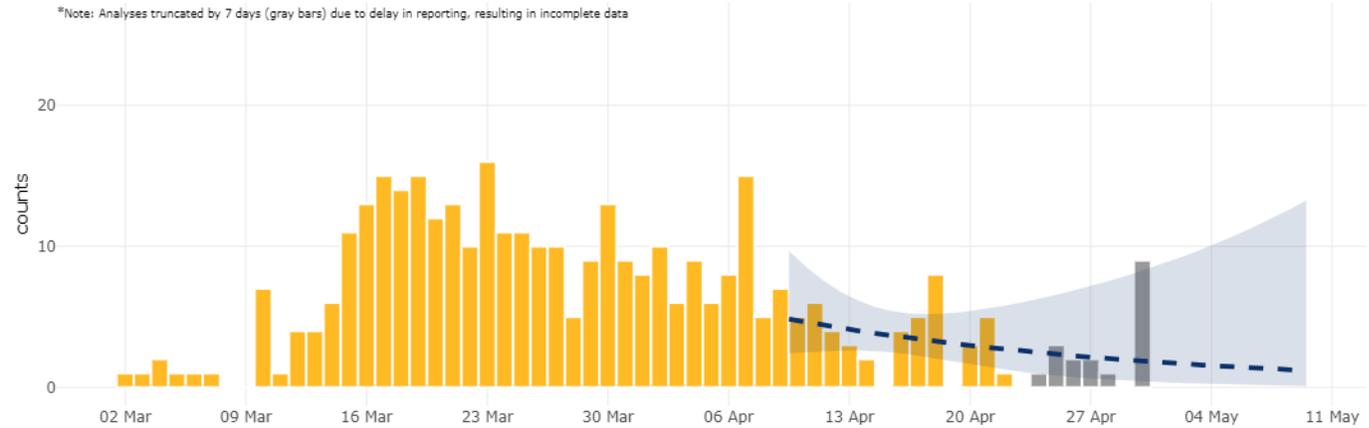
**NOTE:**

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



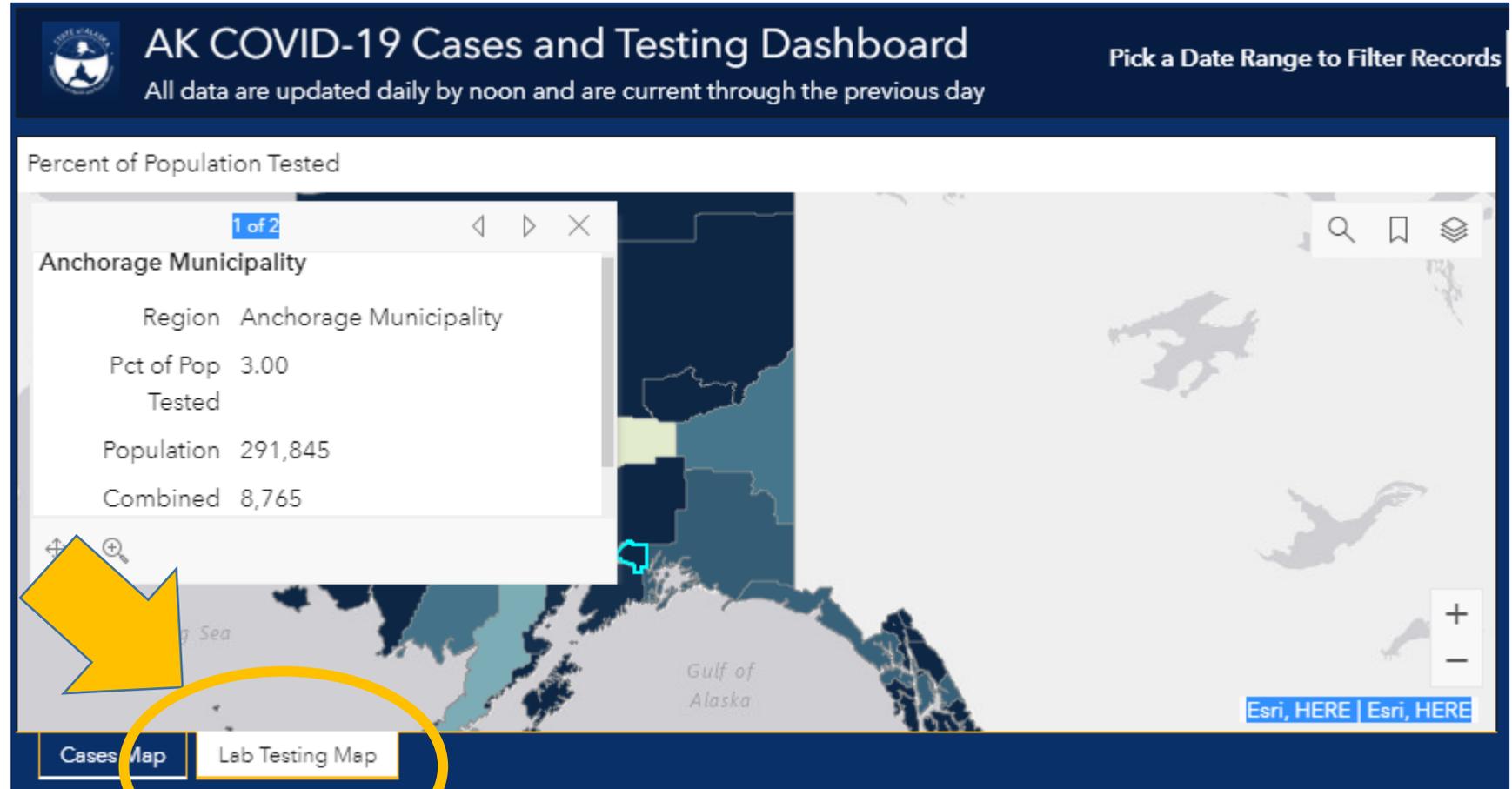
Projection Statistics

Halving Time	Halving Time Lower CI	Halving Time Upper CI
14.83	4.78	-13.45



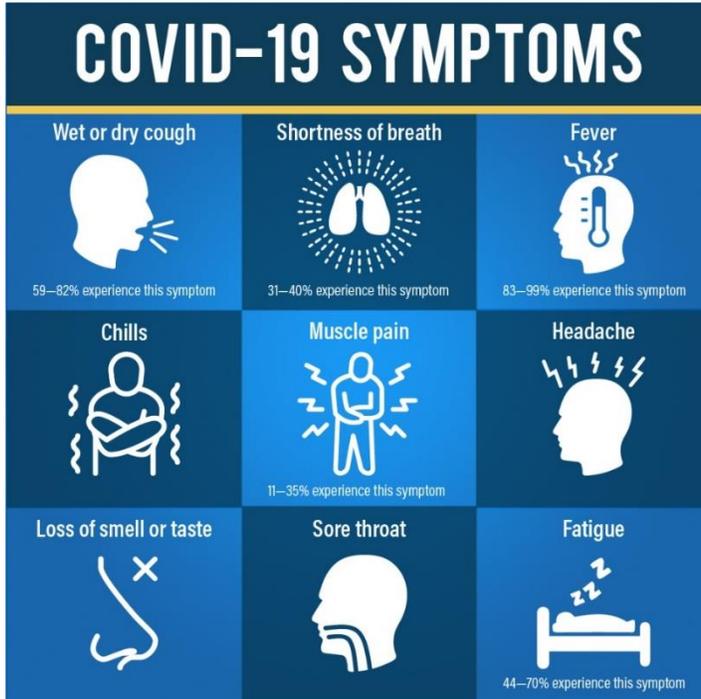
# Testing Map

- There are over 100 sites where you can get tested (sample collection sites) and more than 60 facilities throughout Alaska that are able to perform COVID-19 testing in addition to state public health laboratories and commercial laboratories.
- 20,325 cumulative tests
- 1.7% of tests were positive



## TESTING

# Guidance for COVID-19 Testing in Alaska



- DHSS Section of Epidemiology, issued updated guidance on April 28, 2020
- Testing criteria is now very broad. Health care providers should test anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle/joint aches, headache, decreased appetite, diminished sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, nausea, rash, rigors, runny nose, sore throat, sputum production or fatigue.
- Test any patient with new, unexplained symptoms that may be clinically compatible with COVID-19.
- Providers should base their decision about where to submit specimens primarily on turnaround time and what is most convenient.

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/HumanCoV/AKCOVIDTestingGuidance.pdf>

## TESTING

# Asymptomatic Testing Guidance



- DHSS Section of Epidemiology, issued guidance on April 28, 2020
- For congregate living facilities that serve persons who typically remain at the facility for a sustained period of time (at least 14 days). Includes skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, residential treatment facilities, and correctional facilities.
- Testing of new residents or re-admitted residents.
- If feasible, briefly delay admission pending results.

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/HumanCoV/AKCOVIDAsymptomaticTesting.pdf>

# Circle of Support for Families

- Circle of Support Plan helps caregiver(s) with what to do if the caregiver(s) in the household become ill with COVID-19 and cannot safely provide care for children.
- This is for helping parents and caregivers plan through step-by-step what to do if they have symptoms, and how to plan for care of their children if they get sick.
- Provides parents with a worksheet
- Innovative resource; other states are interested in this.
- Look for “Planning for Families with Children” at [coronavirus.alaska.gov](https://coronavirus.alaska.gov).



# 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.