

COVID-19 in Alaska

DHSS Updates and Metrics

Focus: Health Care Capacity

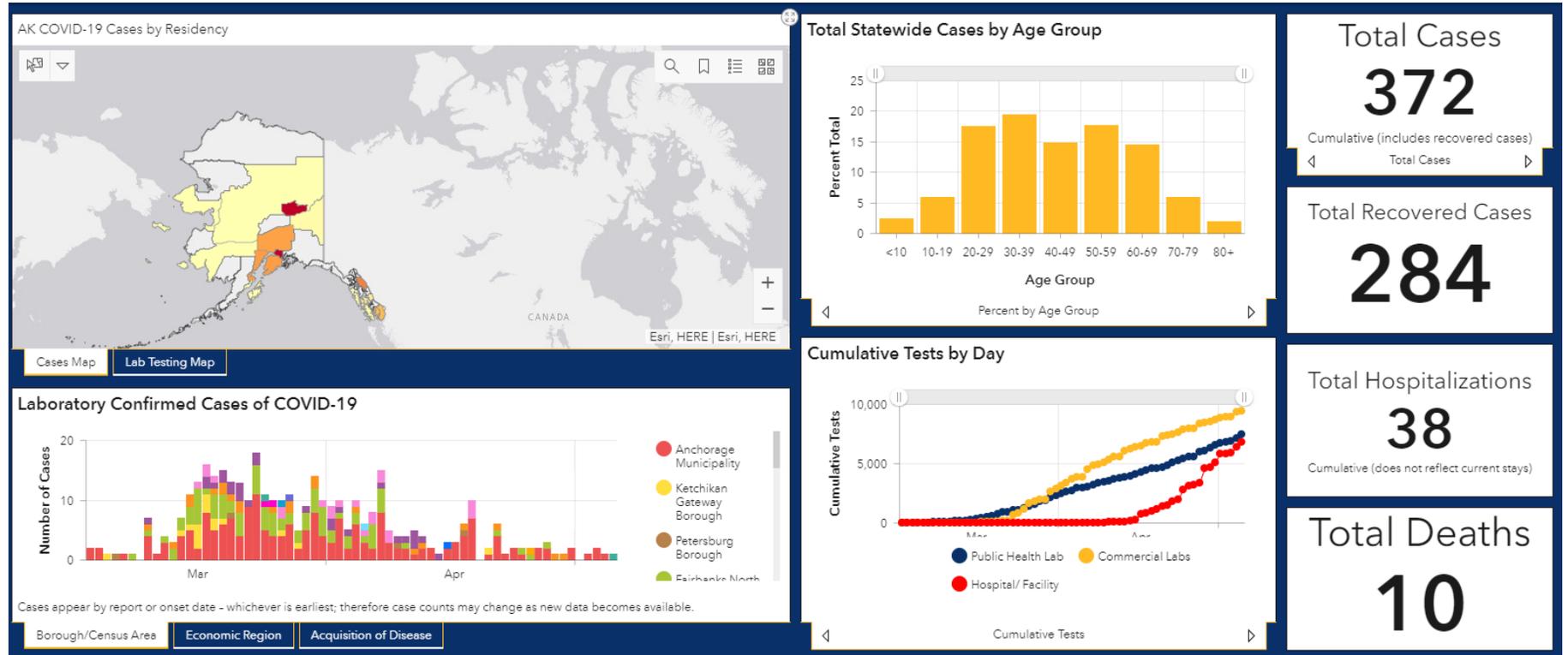
Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska's Chief Medical Officer

May 6, 2020



Updates on the COVID-19 Dashboard: 5/6

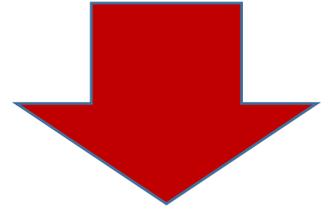
- 1 new case reported 5/5/2020
- 7 additional recovered cases
- One new death
- No new hospitalizations
- 23,655 cumulative tests
- 1.57% of tests were positive



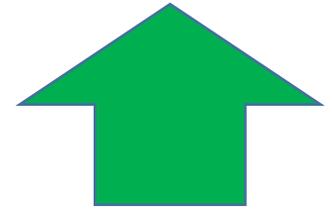
Mitigation measures are extremely important

As restrictions ease, it will be even more important to tighten up our prevention methods.

Community



Personal

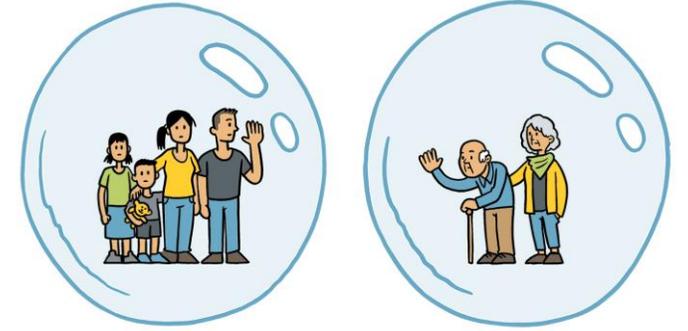


Environmental



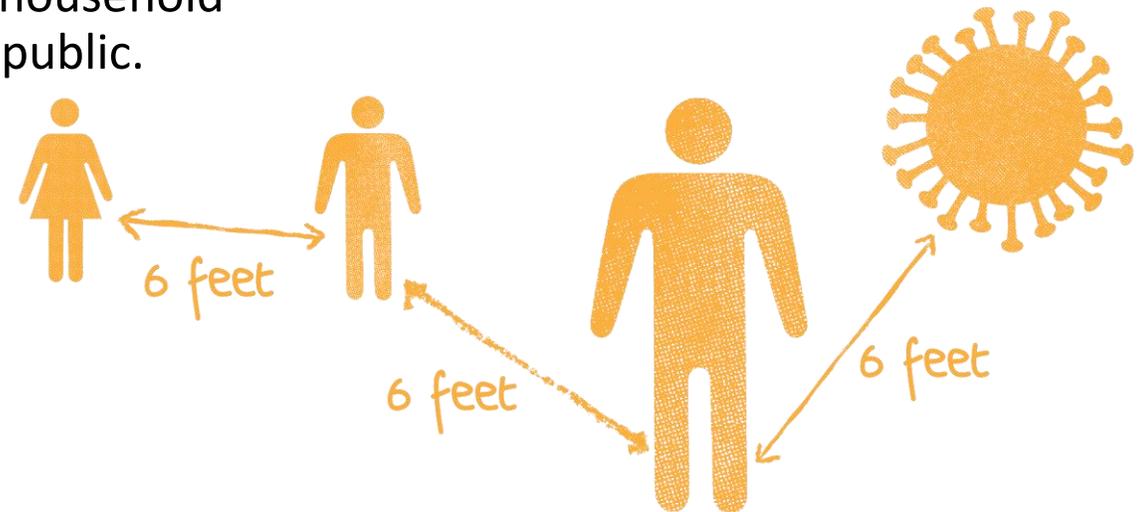
Community Mitigation

- As Alaska reopens, social distancing remains an extremely important tool.
- Limit trips outside the home, even more so if members of your household are at higher risk for severe illness.
- When you do go out, stay six feet away from others, and wear a cloth face covering when you cannot keep a safe physical distance from others.
- Keep your social circle small. Limit contacts outside your household.
- 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.

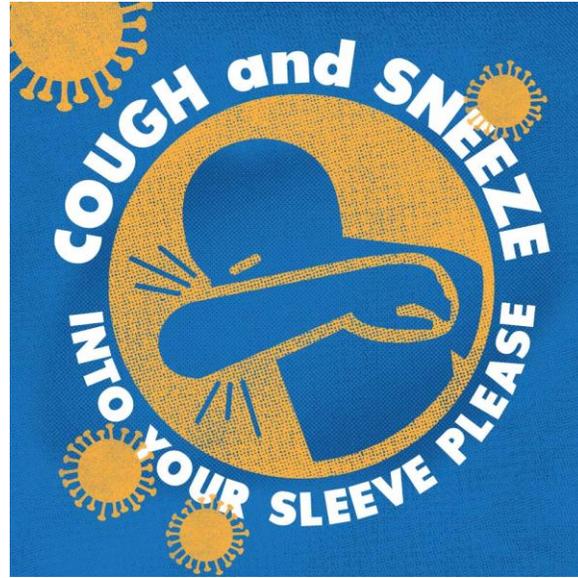


@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz

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Personal Mitigation



Environmental Mitigation

- Cleaning and disinfection will become even more important as we reopen Alaska.
- Develop a plan, implement it, maintain and revise.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
- See page 7 for detailed guidance documents:
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening America Guidance.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf)

GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING & DISINFECTING

PUBLIC SPACES, WORKPLACES, BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND HOMES



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

1 DEVELOP YOUR PLAN

DETERMINE WHAT NEEDS TO BE CLEANED.

Areas unoccupied for 7 or more days need only routine cleaning. Maintain existing cleaning practices for outdoor areas.

DETERMINE HOW AREAS WILL BE DISINFECTED. Consider the type of surface and how often the surface is touched. Prioritize disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

CONSIDER THE RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED. Keep in mind the availability of cleaning products and personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for cleaners and disinfectants.

Follow guidance from state, tribal, local, and territorial authorities.

2 IMPLEMENT

CLEAN VISIBLY DIRTY SURFACES WITH SOAP AND WATER prior to disinfection.

USE THE APPROPRIATE CLEANING OR DISINFECTANT PRODUCT. Use an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19, and read the label to make sure it meets your needs.

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL. The label will include safety information and application instructions. Keep disinfectants out of the reach of children.

3 MAINTAIN AND REVISE

CONTINUE ROUTINE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION. Continue or revise your plan based upon appropriate disinfectant and PPE availability. Dirty surfaces should be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. Routinely disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily.

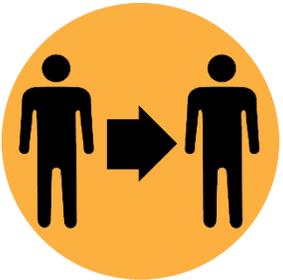
MAINTAIN SAFE PRACTICES such as frequent handwashing, using cloth face coverings, and staying home if you are sick.

CONTINUE PRACTICES THAT REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR EXPOSURE. Maintain social distancing, staying six feet away from others. Reduce sharing of common spaces and frequently touched objects.

For more information, please visit [CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



How do we know if we are ready? What are our metrics?



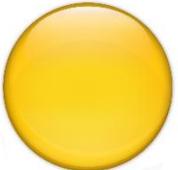
We will be following these metrics and will track these to move forward:

- Disease activity** – Consistently declining or stable level of COVID-19 activity in Alaska.
- Testing capacity** – Enough capacity and access for quick and sufficient COVID-19 testing for symptomatic and asymptomatic people when indicated
- Public health capacity** – Enough capacity to investigate, contact trace and monitor everyone with COVID-19, plus their contacts
- Hospital data** – Enough space, equipment and supplies for personnel to safely and effectively treat all patients

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**.

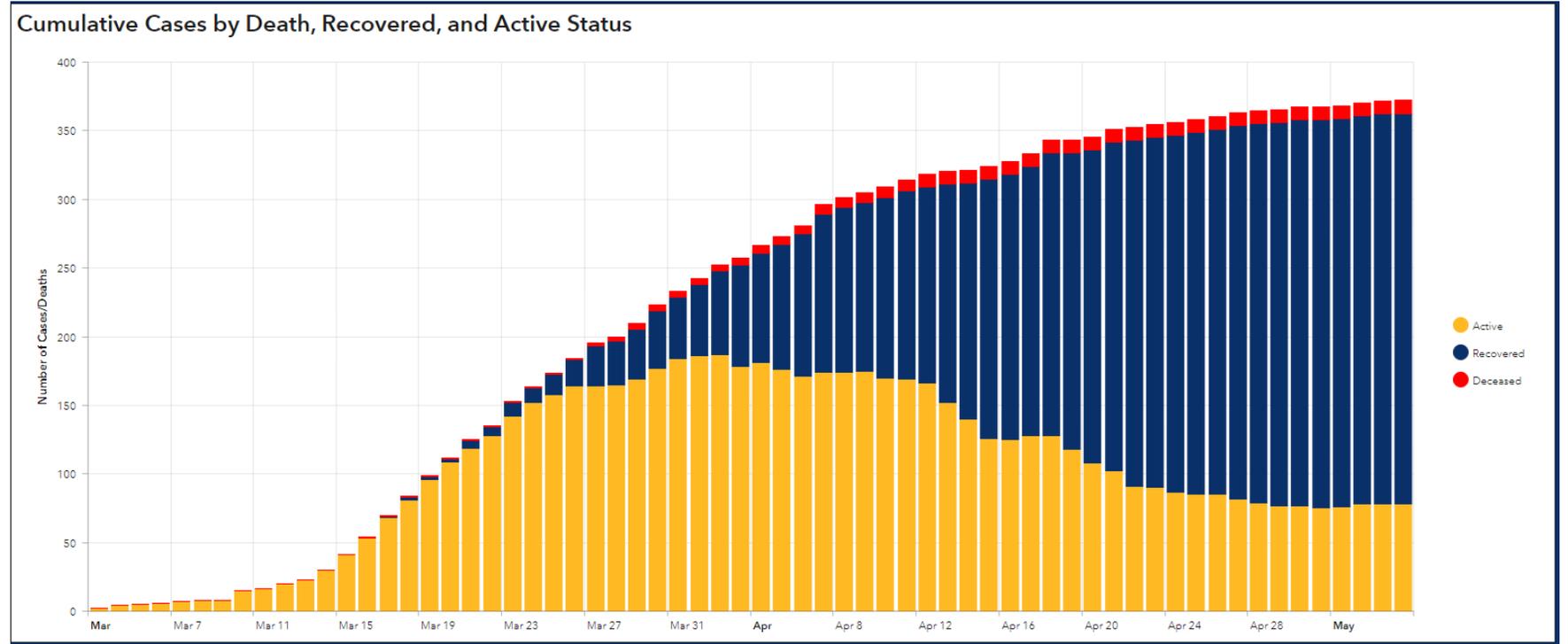
Different areas may follow different rules

- 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.



EPIDEMIOLOGY

Cumulative cases by death, recovered and active status



Statewide





EPIDEMIOLOGY

Epidemic curve – continues to trend down

Projected Epidemic Curve Projected Cumulative Cases Key Interventions Reproductive number

IMPORTANT:

The decreasing trend is likely the result of Alaskan's hard work at personal environmental and community mitigation efforts. As mandates are lifted, we will monitor this closely, and along with other metrics help inform our public health response.

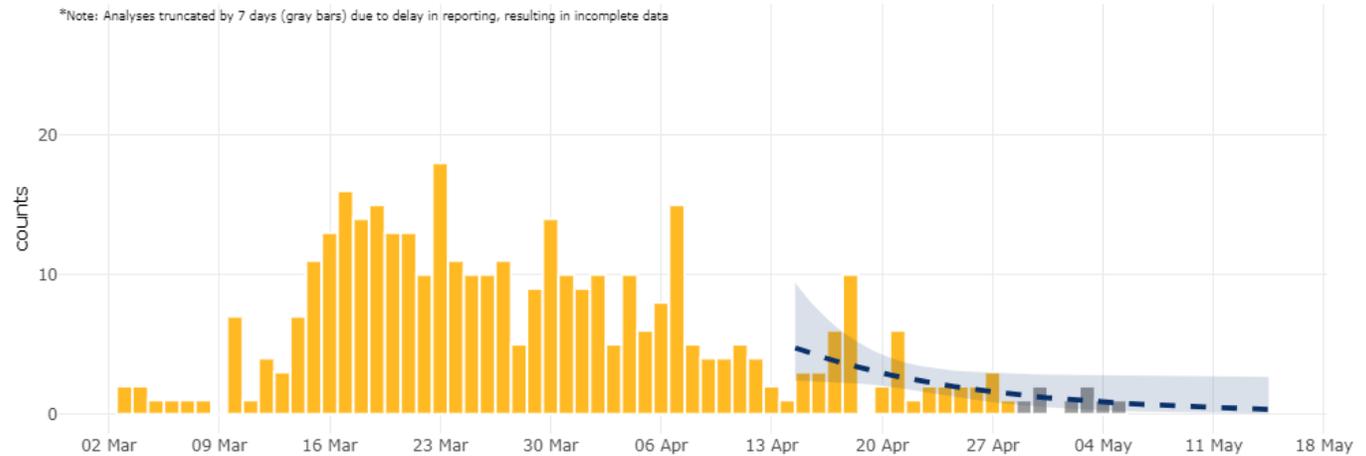
NOTE:

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

Plots Interpretation Methods

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	Lower CI	Upper CI
7.92	3.98	711.47





TESTING

Capacity continues to expand and scale up

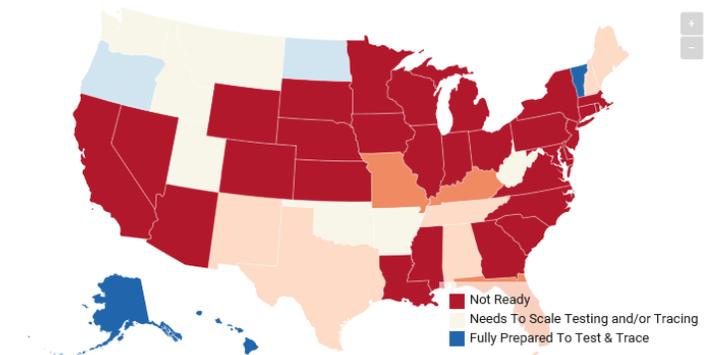
- Testing scaling up for industry workers (i.e. fisheries, wildland firefighters, bulk fuel personnel) prior to traveling to rural areas.
- Alaska rated a top state for testing and tracing according to testandtrace.com. More testing data being added to Alaska dashboard.
- Tribal Health Organizations continue to increase capacity, especially in rural communities.
- Empowering local communities to increase capacity. New testing sites anticipated in: Soldotna, Eagle River, Fairbanks, and Wasilla

What U.S. States Are Ready To Test & Trace Today?

Last updated 5/1 at 1:30am EDT. Any missing/incorrect data? Please [email us](#).

What States Are Ready To Successfully Test & Trace Today?

Grading based upon the metrics that have proven to be successful for Test & Trace: Enough testing capabilities so that <3% of tests are positive and 5-15 contact tracers per daily positive case.



Note: California, Georgia, Arizona, Virginia, Idaho, West Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, and Montana have not been transparent with the public about their contact tracing team sizes and have all received a failing tracing score until they increase transparency.

Source: [View Full Data and Chart Explanation](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

<https://testandtrace.com/>





PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY

Monitoring and contact investigations

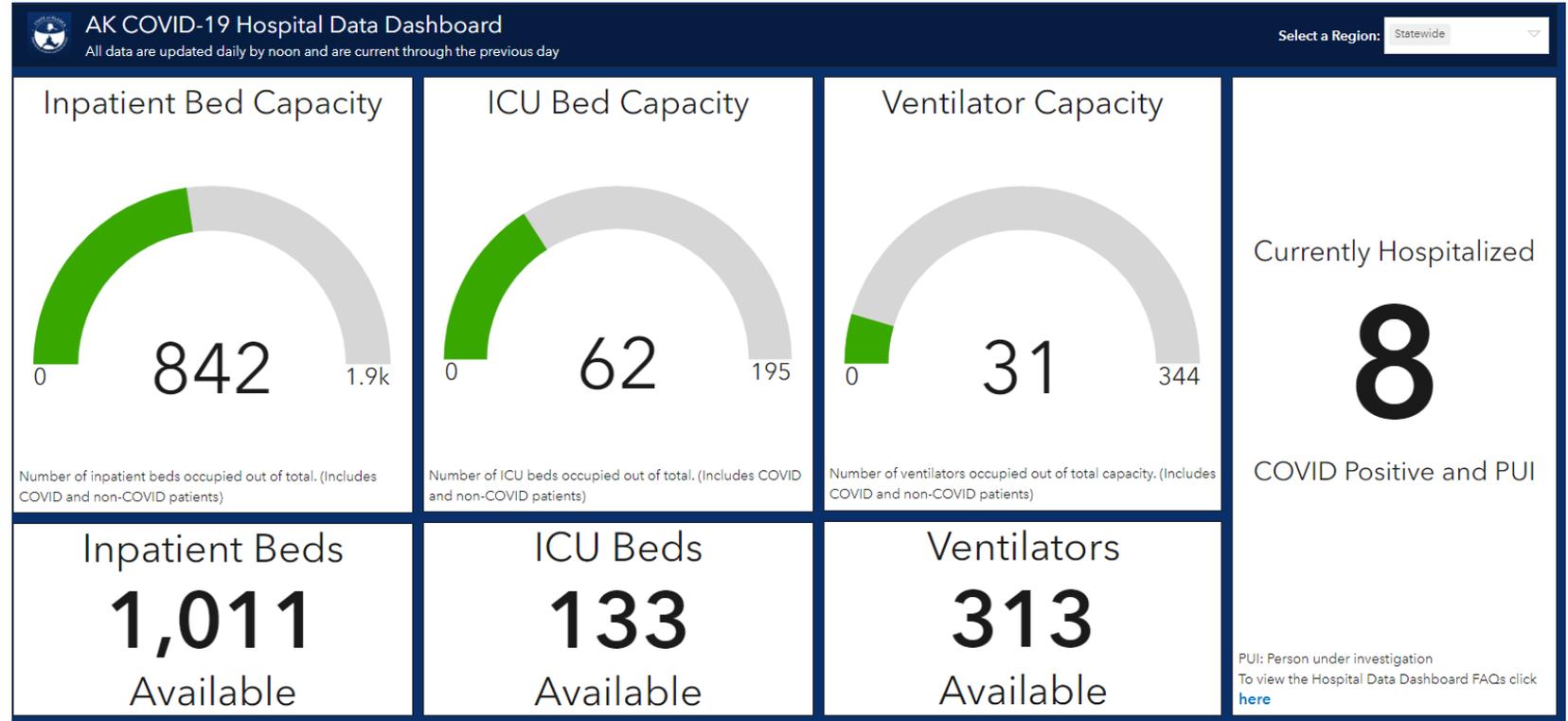
- One contact tracer can be reasonably expected to manage an average of about 1-3 new cases per day, depending on the number of contacts identified per case.
- DHSS is exploring options to engage partners to expand capacity in a way that is scalable and responsive for Alaska.
- Improved technology will increase efficiency.





HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

AK COVID-19 Hospital Data Dashboard





HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

Alternate Care Sites

- 11 communities/hospitals have added 657 beds at Alternative Care Sites.
- Anchorage: Alaska Airlines Center
- Fairbanks: Carlson Center
- Other communities: high schools, educational facilities, public or private buildings.





HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

Surge beds

- 13 hospitals in Alaska have increased by 329 surge beds.
- These are the number of beds added beyond the licensed number of beds.





HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

Transfer guidance

- Patient assessment and transfer guidance developed to assist in patient transfer and placement.
- Air Operations Branch is developing agreements for temporary helicopter pad use at Alternate Care Sites to facilitate the transportation of COVID-19 patients. Also developing plans for aircraft during summer wildfire season while maintaining ability to respond to COVID-19 needs.



Photo credit: Homer News photo





HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

Medical Triage Plan

- Finalizing crisis medical triage plan with team of over 40 medical providers from across Alaska.



How is Alaska doing compared to other states?

- Lowest number of positive cases among all 50 states
- Per capita: third lowest for positive cases, behind Montana and Hawaii
- Second lowest number of deaths
- Per capita: Also second lowest for deaths
- Per capita: 11th highest for testing

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
Alaska	371		9		85	502	12	22,692	30,726
Montana	457		16		31	439	15	15,272	14,660
Wyoming	604		7		192	1,038	12	10,915	18,760
Hawaii	625		17		57	440	12	35,918	25,258
Vermont	907		52		855	1,451	83	17,518	28,030
Maine	1,226		61		424	920	46	20,641	15,487
West Virginia	1,242		50		620	679	27	55,157	30,156
North Dakota	1,266		25		682	1,683	33	36,421	48,419
Idaho	2,127		65		683	1,260	39	30,375	17,997
New Hampshire	2,636		92		1,439	1,962	68	30,836	22,950
South Dakota	2,721		24		802	3,148	28	19,022	22,009

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/>



MAY 6
NATIONAL
NURSES
DAY

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THANK YOU!

Thank you, Alaska. Everyone is essential.

- Questions regarding DHSS COVID response, including mandates and alerts, can be sent to: covidquestions@alaska.gov.
- Questions regarding DHSS data can be sent to: 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.

