COVID-19 Update
November 5, 2020
Key Points

- Virus transmission across Alaska accelerated for the fifth record week in a row. Living with COVID-19 requires continued diligence. To save lives and keep schools and businesses open, we all need to help prevent the spread.

- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 are rising and hospital capacity is a concern. Unified Command & DHSS continue to help communities prepare. PPE and testing resources continue to be received and shipped statewide.

- We are hiring as fast as we can but testing and contact tracing are currently not keeping pace with the high number of cases. Alaskans can help by notifying close contacts and isolating quickly if you are sick and quarantining for the full 14 days if you’ve been exposed.

- A vaccine will be available soon, but even then, we will need to remain diligent until enough people are protected.
Emergency Response Phases

- **Phase I** *March through May 2020* – Initial response – learning

- **Phase II** *June through September 2020* – Sustained response with low numbers

- **Phase III** *October 2020 to present* – Maximizing Healthcare Capacity and Response

Photo credit: Erik Johnson
The disaster declaration Alaska has operated under since March is scheduled to expire Nov. 15.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy declared a public health disaster emergency on March 11, before Alaska’s first case of COVID-19 was detected. The Alaska Legislature passed Senate Bill 241 in late March extending the governor’s declaration until Nov. 15, 2020.

Under the declaration, 18 state mandates were enacted. All but five of those mandates have expired or been rescinded.

Other important tools tied to the declaration: Federal waivers needed by hospitals and nursing homes, quick licensing of health care and other essential response workers, telehealth provisions, federal relief for those affected by the pandemic and more.
PPE and Testing Resources

- If communities are low on supplies (gloves, masks, testing equipment), please send resource requests to their local emergency operations center.

- DHSS will work to get communities needed supplies.


- Estimated number of days to doubling: **18.21**
- Estimated daily growth rate: **3.72%**
- *Rt = approximately 1.14*

Alaska Alert Level: High

Average daily case rate: **49.08** per 100,000 population

Testing % Positivity Rate – Statewide
7-day rolling average, last 60 days

Statewide Percentage of Daily Tests with Positive Results
(Seven day rolling average)

627,758 total tests
7.12% of tests positive over past 7 days

The statewide positivity rate continues to climb. Increases in testing are not keeping up with increases in cases.

Includes PCR and antigen tests, does not include antibody tests. Labs collected in the last few days may not be reported yet (see FAQ and turnaround times). All data are preliminary.

COVID-19 Cases – Hospital Dashboard

Current Situation: Contact Tracing

- Robust effort to onboard new contact tracers daily
- Currently, we are not keeping pace. Hundreds of positive cases are not being called the day they are reported to DHSS.
- We are asking Alaskans to call their own close contacts so people can quickly isolate if positive or quarantine if they are a close contact.
- Contact tracing is a team sport!
- New flyer, contact your own close contacts dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/HumanCoV/Whattodoafteryourtest.pdf
Keep Track of Your Contacts

- Close contacts are anyone with whom a person who has COVID-19 has spent more than a cumulative 15 minutes within a 6-foot space within a 24 hr period.
Current Situation: Schools

- Cases in schools largely follow community case transmission rate. To keep schools and businesses open, we need to reduce transmission in our communities.

- Case rate in community determines the chance that someone comes to school with COVID-19 and doesn’t know it (highway speed)

- In-school mitigation helps protect others when it happens (seatbelts, airbags) – but it’s never perfect

- Testing helps us see the road behind and ahead (headlights, rearview mirror)

- Contact tracing helps us reach ahead

The Time to Act is Now – Limit Contacts, Tighten Bubbles

- Keep our social circles as small as possible, ideally to just your household.

- Stay home as much as possible. Follow community health guidance.

- Small actions taken by individuals and families make a big difference – and will help us get through this together.

- If you know younger Alaskans, talk to them about what they can do to help prevent the spread.

- Be proactive and create as we take care of our families and others.
Keep up social distancing, limit contacts

The future of our communities depends on how we act now.

Stay home & keep your bubble small.

Six feet away keeps COVID-19 at bay.
What’s in a Mask?
What Alaskans Can Do – Combine Mitigation & Layer on Protections

Mitigation strategies are most effective when used in combination.
Winter Resiliency
We need your help!

SAFE+
STRONG
RESILIENT

covid19.alaska.gov
Make a plan to get your flu shot if you haven’t already!
Thank you, Alaskans, for getting your flu shot. We’re rocking it!
Winter Resiliency Checklist

- Thank you for getting your flu shot!
- Avoid the 3 Cs
- Do the 3 Ws
- Check your indoor air.
- Get caught up on preventive health.
- Move your body regularly. Get outside every day.
- Connect and seek support.
- Plan healthy meals.
- Support your community.
- Let’s pull together to survive and thrive this winter!
Be Well, Be Kind, Be Safe

GIVE THANKS

and

STAY SAFE