



Health Services COVID-19 Situation Report

05/15/20

Dear Community Members,

“COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community (“community spread”) in many affected geographic areas. Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.”- CDC.

As Alaska continues to open the economy including the commercial fishing industry, we must continue to practice safety procedures to limit risk. We will continue to monitor the daily case counts and provide COVID-19 testing (following regulatory guidelines) but we need your help to help keep the virus out of our communities! Prevention and early detection of the virus is essential in helping to support the potential spread of the virus.

As of today, Alaska has 388 confirmed cases, 343 recovered cases, 41 hospitalizations, and 10 deaths. ANMC’s currently COVID-19 inpatient status update- 2 positive inpatient and 0 suspected inpatient.

Chugachmiut COVID-19 Testing (Weekly Testing #s reported from 12:00pm Wednesday to 12:00pm following Wednesday)

	Testing This Week	Testing YTD	Results Negative	Pending Results	Results Positive	Testing Collection Kits to ANMC	Rapid Testing Kits
Chenege	0	0	0	0	0	100	71
Nanwalek	8	15	13	2		195	65
Port Graham	9	13	12	1		150	155
Seward	4	15	15	0	0	145	0
Tatitlek	1	4	4	0	0	100	117

What’s New?

Health Mandate 018: Intrastate Travel. Effective May 12, 2020. The mandate permits travel between communities on the road system and in-state travel by the Alaska Marine Highway System. Travel continues to be prohibited to communities off the road system that are not served by the Alaska Marine Highway System, except for travel supporting critical infrastructure or critical personal needs. (Reference <https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2020/05/12governor-issues-covid-19-health-mandate-18/>)

Note: Tribes can implement travel restrictions as deemed necessary to assure the safety of community.

Local Clinic Service Updates:

- **COVID-19 Testing & Self-Collect Nasal Swabs-** The US Food and Drug Administration provided guidance, allowing patients nationwide to self-collect nasal swabs for COVID-19 testing. It’s a simple, less invasive method that allows patients to collect their own samples to be tested for COVID-19. If you have had a nasal swab in the past, it’s not the same collection required from deep inside the nasal cavity. Instead the self-swab test allows people to swab the





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front part of the nostril and mid-nose which is less invasive. It could help protect health care workers, preserve limited personal protective equipment and significantly speed up the testing process. Contact your local clinic to learn more.

- **COVID-19 Rapid Testing:** All village clinics currently have rapid testing capabilities with the exception of Chenege. Chenege's unit arrived last Saturday and is not working. Unit will be sent back to manufacturer and a new unit will be sent to the community. Anticipated arrival date of new unit is 5/22/2020. Clinic is able to collect specimen and send to ANMC for testing.
- **High Risk Outreach:** As of today, all high risk community members have been contacted in Seward, Tatitlek, Chenege, Nanwalek and Port Graham.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Preparations for Prevention & Mitigation, Testing, & Response:** Meetings occurred this week with Nanwalek, Port Graham and Tatitlek. Discussion highlights include the planning and preparation for an Alternative Home Isolation Site, Fatality Management and Alaska Mandate Travel & Tribal Travel Restrictions.
 - Nanwalek's follow-up meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020 at 11:30am.
 - Tatitlek's follow-up meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 1:00pm.
 - Port Graham's follow-up meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 3:00pm.
 - Chenege's follow-up meeting will be scheduled upon request of Tribal Council.

Community & Family Services Division Updates:

- **Counseling Services:** The clinical staff is meeting with people throughout the region while following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in order to maintain "social distancing" while working from home. Staff members are calling, Skyping, using Facetime, and even texting- and receiving the same- to ensure that no one feels alone through these times of international pandemic.
- **Crisis Line:** For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency response, our Crisis Line is also working as a point of contact to link people up with their preferred counselors. Please feel free to call our Crisis Line number: 1-844-891-0444.
- **Group Support:** The behavioral health team continues to offer virtual/online groups to address mental health issues and to ensure that our partners in sobriety can maintain their resolve to stay clean and sober. We are holding regular AA meetings with an attendance of as many as 8. We are also hosting Zoom group meetings on a variety of topics. If interested in joining one of these groups, please feel free to call our Crisis Line number: 1-844-891-0444.

What are the most reliable resources to get updates?

Alaska DHSS COVID-19 website: <http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>

CDC COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Sincerely,

Kelley Baker, Health Services Division Director