



Dear Community Members,

So much has changed in the past few months, but many things have not- like the strength and resiliency we see around us and our gratitude for all of the stakeholders committed to the health and wellness of those we serve and are supporting during this time. Among the heroes who have emerged from the crisis are the healthcare professionals who have risked their own health to serve our region as well as those who work behind the scenes to ensure our team is well supported. We are sincerely blessed to have them!

Undoubtedly, this has been a steep learning curve for all of us in the response to this pandemic and the last few months have been especially challenging with 3 of 4 villages with confirmed positive cases along with cases increasing throughout our region.

Fortunately, we've made significant progress in our understanding of this disease, our ability to combat it, and our efforts to help patients suffering with it. We still have much more to learn about this disease as it evolves and understand our role in not only treating patients with the disease, but also to prevent the spread of the disease and secure and administer effective therapeutics and safe and effective vaccines.

Alaska's COVID-19 infection rate is currently the highest in the nation. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise in nearly all regions throughout the state, driven almost entirely by the highly infectious Delta variant. Our hospital capacity is at a critical crisis point with some hospitals implementing crisis standards of care and health support. This is very serious and can have a devastating impact if recommended preventive strategies aren't followed.

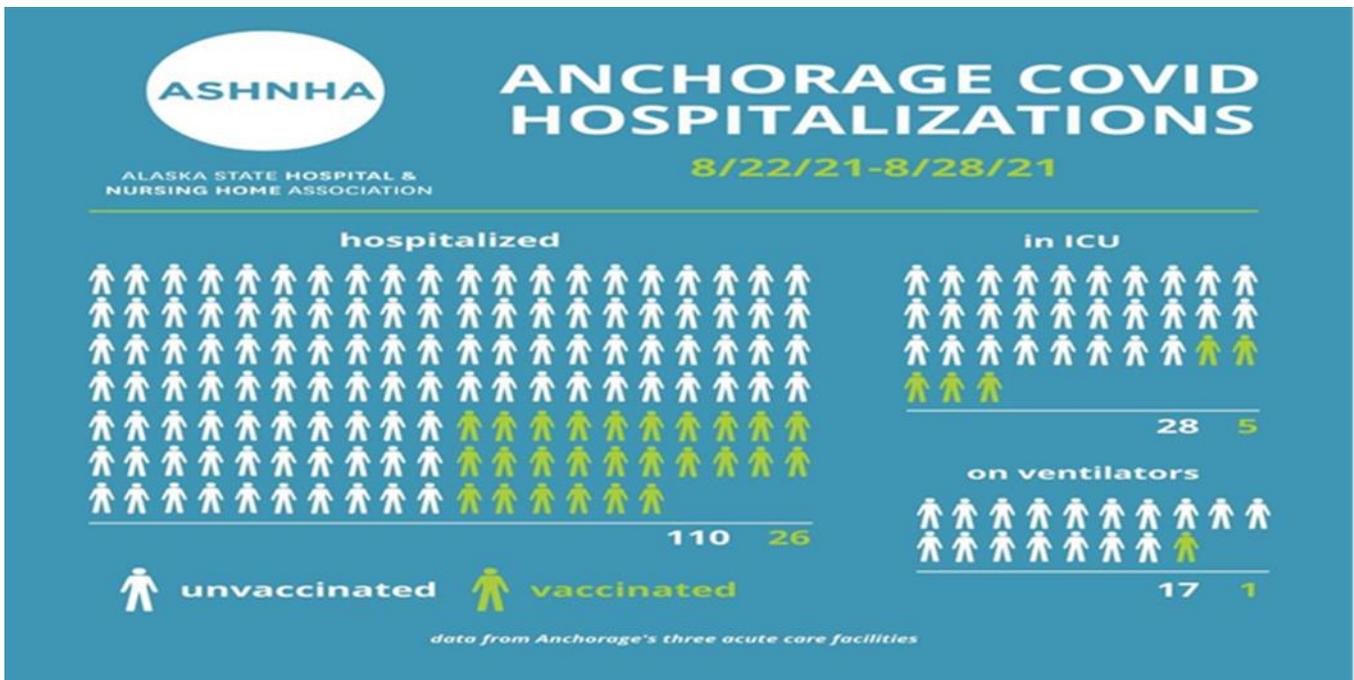
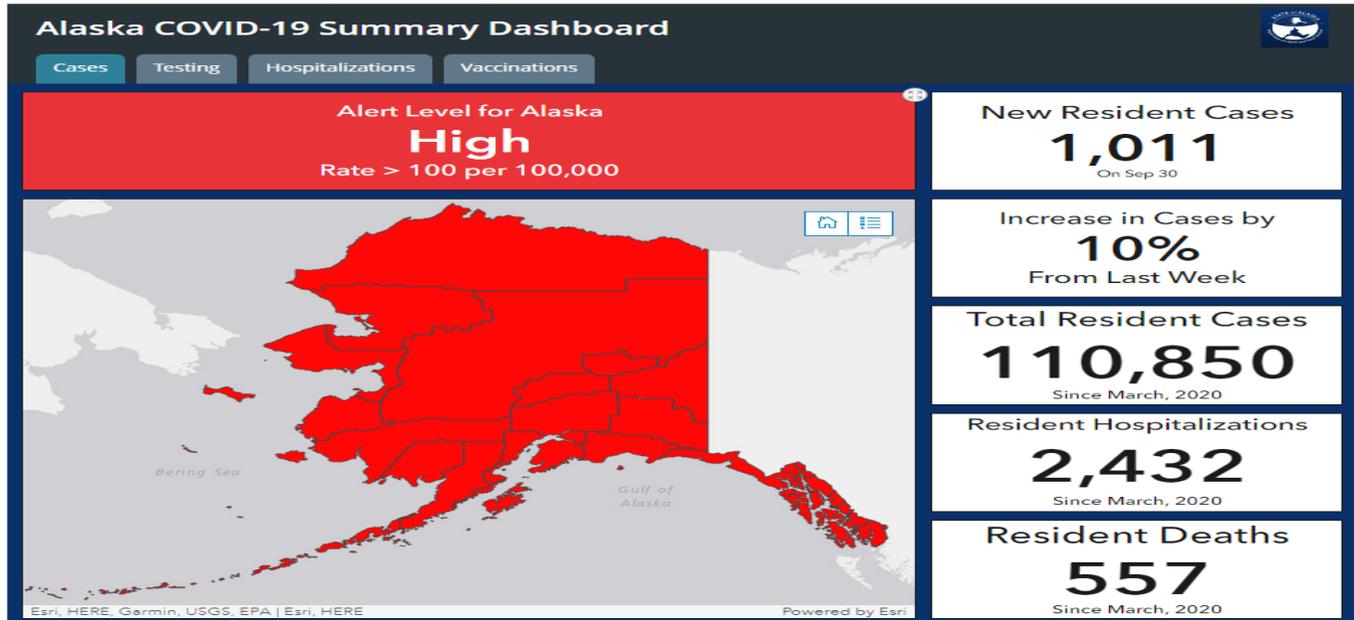
Our hope is people have enough education and resources to support our mission of self-determination and choose to implement effective preventive and protective strategies to help keep themselves and others safe during this time. We hope to see COVID-19 vaccination rates increase. We hope for masking mandates to protect those most vulnerable. We hope for self-quarantining upon return from travel and/or when people develop symptoms and testing strategies followed. We hope people isolate when they become infected and contact their close contacts so they are aware and don't risk spreading the virus to others. We hope people acknowledge their frontline heroes coming to work every day despite the risks and treat them with kindness. Most importantly, we hope everyone feels the strength and resiliency of our support system, especially those infected with COVID.

Sincerely,

Kelley Baker, CPC, CPO  
Health Services Division Director



## Data Dashboard Daily Summary



### What's New?

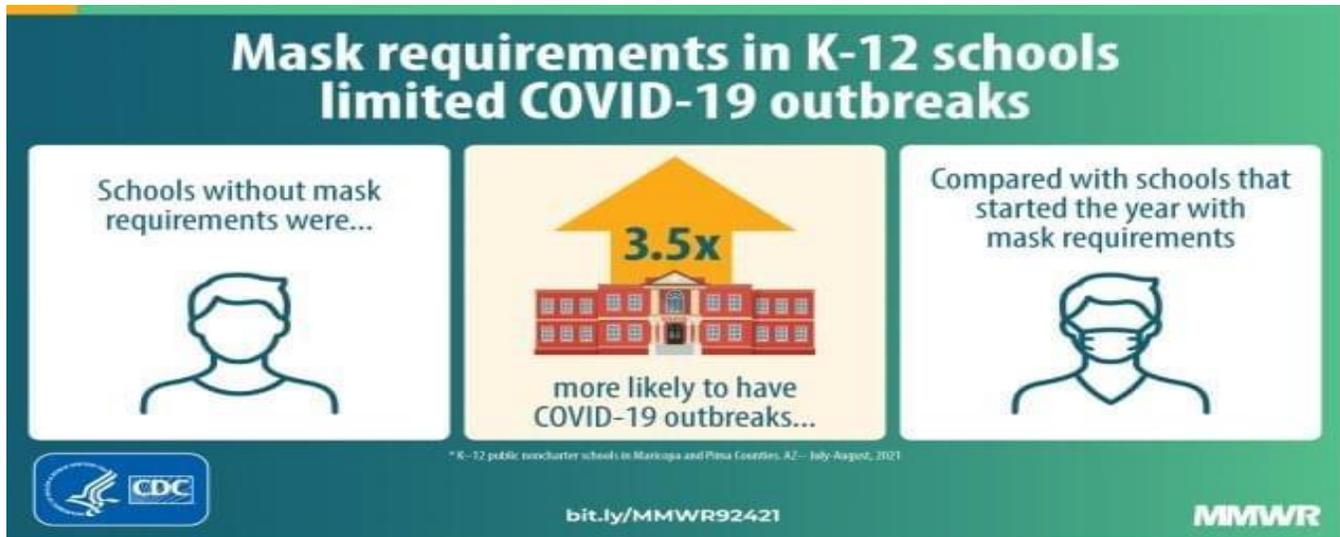
**Alaska DHSS Activates Crisis Standards of Care:** Effective September 22, 2021 Alaska DHSS has activated crisis standards of care for hospitals in the state due to hospitals facing staffing strains and other overwhelming circumstances during this time. Activating crisis standards of care gives healthcare providers a framework to use to make patient care decisions during the pandemic. Meaning difficult decisions may need to be made over whose care should be prioritized.

Providing link to frequent asked questions:

[https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/siteassets/pages/HumanCoV/DHSS\\_FAQ\\_CSC\\_20210923.pdf](https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/siteassets/pages/HumanCoV/DHSS_FAQ_CSC_20210923.pdf)



**Studies Show More COVID-19 Cases in Areas Without School Masking Policies:** CDC released three studies in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on September 24, 2021 that highlight the importance of using layered prevention strategies including universal masking to stop the spread and minimize disruptions to school operations for safe in-person education. These studies found that school districts without universal masking policy in place were more likely to have COVID-19 outbreaks. Nationwide, counties without masking requirements saw the number of pediatric COVID-19 cases increase nearly twice as quickly during this same period. Sharing link to frequent asked questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/release/2021/p0924-school-masking.html>



**FDA Authorizes Booster Dose of Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Certain Populations:** Effective September 22, 2021 the FDA amended the emergency use authorization for Pfizer vaccine to allow for use of a single booster dose, to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series for people who are:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work and live in high risk settings

**ANMC Campus Drive Thru or Walk-up COVID-19 Testing Sites:** Starting October 12, 2021, the testing site drive-thru hours will expand to 9:00am to 7:00pm, Sunday through Friday and are closed on Saturdays. Due to high volumes, the ANMC COVID-19 collection sites are currently experiencing delays and wait times may exceed six hours. Please register in advance at <https://covid19test.anmc.org/> and wait for the text message before proceeding to the testing site.

Current testing hours until 10/12/2021:

- Drive thru: Sunday-Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm (closed on Saturdays)
- Walk-up: Sunday-Friday 10:00am to -12:00pm & 4:00pm to 6:00pm (closed on Saturdays)
- For patients and staff needing asymptomatic or symptomatic COVID-19 test on a Saturday, please use one of the Anchorage municipality testing sites: <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/testing>. Municipality of Anchorage test results will not be entered into Cerner so should not be done for pre-procedural testing.



## Chugachmiut

**Alaska Announces Weekly \$49,000 Lottery to Encourage COVID-19 Vaccination:** Each week through the end of October, **Alaska residents who submit proof that they got the first dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine during the previous week** to [GiveAKaShot.com](http://GiveAKaShot.com) will be entered into the drawing. One adult and one youth will win \$49,000 a piece every week. For Alaskans age 18 and up, the prize is paid in cash. For the younger winners, the \$49,000 will be paid into a scholarship fund, plus their parents will receive an extra \$10,000 cash if they're also vaccinated. **Alaskans vaccinated before September 2<sup>nd</sup> can enter to win the final Week 9 drawing any time before October 30<sup>th</sup>.**

### How to enter?

**Step 1: Get your COVID-19 vaccine!**

**Step 2: Visit [GiveAKaShot.com](http://GiveAKaShot.com)**

**Step 3: Get your shot at \$49k!**

ALASKA CHAMBER  
[www.GiveAKaShot.com](http://www.GiveAKaShot.com)

2 Winners each week!		
WEEK 1: Sept. 2-11		
WEEK 2: Sept. 12-18		
WEEK 3: Sept. 19-25		
WEEK 4: Sept. 26-Oct. 2		
WEEK 5: Oct. 3-9		
WEEK 6: Oct. 10-16		
WEEK 7: Oct. 17-23		
WEEK 8: Oct. 24-30		
VACCINATED BEFORE SEPT. 2		

### Local Clinic Service Updates

- **Clinic Services:** Currently NOT accepting walk-ins. Call clinics for an appointment. **Please DO NOT DELAY YOUR MEDICAL CARE. Prevention and early detection can catch small problems before they become big problems.** Please make sure you and your family is caught up on general health recommendations to stay well.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild or regardless of your vaccination status, please get tested. Together we can stop the spread of the virus in our communities.

	COVID-19 Testing September	COVID-19 Testing YTD	COVID-19 Results Negative YTD	COVID-19 Results Positive September	COVID-19 Results Positive YTD	ANMC Pending Results
Chenege	17	228	228	0	0	0
Nanwalek	152	1030	1013	7	17	0
Port Graham	46	875	873	0	2	0
Seward	127	1127	1054	17	73	0
Tatitlek	39	363	330	1	33	0
<b>Total</b>	381	3623	3498	25	125	0



### Chugachmiut

- **COVID-19 Vaccine:** Vaccines are available at all clinics. Call your local clinic to schedule an appointment. **Getting vaccinated can reduce your chances of severe illness, hospitalization and death.**
- **2021-2022 Flu Vaccines:** All clinics have flu vaccine available. CDC recommends getting the flu shot by the end of October 2021. Please contact your local clinic to get your flu shot.
- **Dental Services:** We are working to get additional dental services scheduled for village communities.  
Nanwalek Dental Service Dates (Chugachmiut): October 11<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Seward Dental & Hygiene Service Dates (Chugachmiut): October 11<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Port Graham Dental Service Dates (Chugachmiut): October 18<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **Optometry Services:** SCF has resumed optometry services for Region as follows:  
Port Graham- December 6<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Pharmacy Services:** Please be sure to call your pharmacy and/or clinic for refills at least 1 week before your supply runs out to avoid an emergency situation.
- **Diabetes Prevention & Control Program:** Our team is able to assist in testing for prediabetes or diabetes, as well as provide information and support on diabetes (which includes prediabetes, diabetes type I and 2, and gestational). We offer diabetes medication education, diabetes self-management and education support, medical nutrition therapy and exercise education.

**Go for The Gold Olympic Themed Step Challenge:** 72 people joined the challenge- resulting in the largest participation rate we ever have had! Thank you all for your participation! Highlighting final accomplishments and top steppers:

- ❖ 12,253,672 total steps & 5,112 miles covered
- ❖ 52,498 minutes of activity, or over 36 days of nonstop activity
- ❖ 16 people met the 250,000 total step goal for the challenge
- ❖ 12 people reached greater than 10,000 average steps per day



**Shane Moonin**  
**688,054 total steps**



**Charlemagne McMullen**  
**619,880 total steps**



**Michelle Moonin**  
**516,913 total steps**



- **MyHealth Enrollment:** A “COVID-19 Center” has been created within the MyHealth patient portal. The COVID-19 Center within the portal will allow users to view and print their COVID-19 testing results and record of COVID-19 immunizations. Also if you are interested in receiving any of your lab testing results as soon as they become available (including testing results from ANTHC) and want to avoid any delays in getting your lab results- sign up for a MyHealth account by contacting your local clinic to gain access to your account.
- **Purchased and Referred Care (PRC):** PRC funds are limited. Necessary medical services are to be provided by the Chugachmiut and/or other IHS or Tribal facilities or providers, such as Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), Southcentral Foundation (SCF) or Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), except when there is an emergent need for services to prevent death or serious impairment.  
**For non-emergent cases, prior authorization is required.** It is essential to contact your local clinic before receiving any services at any non-Tribal health care facility, or within 72 hours of an emergency room visit. Also following a referred appointment, a follow-up appointment at a Chugachmiut operated clinic is required for review of care and to discuss further treatment.
- **Universal Masking:** To help ensure the health and safety of everyone, our universal masking policy applies to all staff, contractors, patients and visitors at all Chugachmiut buildings and property.

## Who’s Coming to A Clinic Near You?

The following *non-local providers* will be traveling to communities throughout Region to provide services. To schedule an appointment time, contact your health clinic. Dates are subject to change dependent on weather or other scheduling issues.

### Cheneega

Chugachmiut- Betty Howard, CHP 10/1 to 10/15

Chugachmiut- Kristen Walcott, CHA-III 10/15 to 10/29

Chugachmiut Behavioral Health- Shelby Thompson & Shelly Keene 10/22 to 10/29

Chugachmiut- Kyla Morrisett, CHA-IV 10/29 to 11/5

### Nanwalek

Chugachmiut- Danise Petticrew, APP 9/25 to 10/1

Chugachmiut Dental- Dr. Jake Owens & Rhonda Wulf-LaBelle 10/11 to 10/15

Chugachmiut- Quanah Brewster, CHA-III 10/11 to 10/18

Chugachmiut- Chantal Miklahook, CHA-III 10/18 to 11/8

### Port Graham

Chugachmiut- Chris Diaz, CHP 9/27 to 10/1

Chugachmiut Dental- Dr. Jake Owens & Rhonda Wulf-LaBelle 10/18 to 10/22

### Seward

Chugachmiut- Bonnie Turner APP 10/4 to 10/8 & 10/11 to 10/14

Chugachmiut Dental & Hygiene- Dr. George Murphy & Shannon Giegerich 10/11 to 10/15



### Tatitlek

- SCF Dental- Dr. Erin Rose 9/28 to 10/1
- Chugachmiut- Tandra Dull, CHP 10/1 to 10/08
- Chugachmiut- Kristin Walcott, CHA-III 10/8 to 10/15
- Chugachmiut- Bonnie Turner, APP 10/15 to 10/29
- Chugachmiut- Danise Petticrew, APP 10/29 to 12/3

## Alaska's COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard Summary as of 10/01/2021

**VACCINATIONS** – 63.3% of Alaskans age 12 and older have received at least their first vaccine dose.

60.3% of Alaskans 12 and older have been fully vaccinated. The higher the vaccination rate, the more protected community members are from COVID-19.

For more information about vaccines, visit [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov).

## Chugachmiut's COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

**TAKE ACTION-** Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community.

## Region Vaccination Series Complete = 595

Cheneqa Vaccination Rates		Nanwalek Vaccination Rates		Port Graham Vaccination Rates	
Total Population Vaccinated:	31	Total Population Vaccinated:	148	Total Population Vaccinated:	100
Total Population:	43	Total Population:	245	Total Population:	142
Percent Vaccinated	72.09%	Percent Vaccinated	60.41%	Percent Vaccinated	70.42%
Population >12 Vaccinated	31	Population >12 Vaccinated	148	Population >12 Vaccinated	100
Total Population >12	36	Total Population >12	181	Total Population >12	111
Percent >12 Vaccinated	86.11%	Percent >12 Vaccinated	81.77%	Percent >12 Vaccinated	90.09%
Population >65 Vaccinated	5	Population >65 Vaccinated	12	Population >65 Vaccinated	20
Total Population >65	5	Total Population >65	13	Total Population >65	20
Percent >65 Vaccinated	100.00%	Percent >65 Vaccinated	92.31%	Percent >65 Vaccinated	100.00%
<b>Vaccine Series Complete = 31</b>		<b>Vaccine Series Complete = 148</b>		<b>Vaccine Series Complete = 100</b>	

Tatitlek Vaccination Rates		Seward Vaccination Rates		Region Vaccination Rates	
Total Population Vaccinated:	45	Total Population Vaccinated:	271	Total Population Vaccinated:	595
Total Population:	66	Total Population:	606	Total Population:	1102
Percent Vaccinated	68.18%	Percent Vaccinated	44.72%	Percent Vaccinated	53.99%
Population >12 Vaccinated	45	Population >12 Vaccinated	271	Population >12 Vaccinated	595
Total Population >12	54	Total Population >12	506	Total Population >12	888
Percent >12 Vaccinated	83.33%	Percent >12 Vaccinated	53.56%	Percent >12 Vaccinated	67.00%
Population >65 Vaccinated	9	Population >65 Vaccinated	56	Population >65 Vaccinated	102
Total Population >65	9	Total Population >65	69	Total Population >65	116
Percent >65 Vaccinated	100.00%	Percent >65 Vaccinated	81.16%	Percent >65 Vaccinated	87.93%
<b>Vaccine Series Complete = 45</b>		<b>Vaccine Series Complete = 271</b>		<b>Vaccine Series Complete = 595</b>	





## Common COVID-19 Vaccine Question

*How long do I need to wait after getting a flu vaccine or another vaccine before getting a COVID-19 vaccine?*

You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection, known as immune response, and possible side effects after getting vaccinated are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines.

## Community & Family Services Division Updates

- **Summer “Laugh and Learn” Series:** Everyone is invited and welcome to attend! Offered virtually via Zoom link! Text 907-764-1945 for link invite!
- **Chugachmiut Regional Alcoholic Anonymous Meetings:** Held every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:00pm. Join meeting via Zoom. Meeting ID: 748 764 6244



## Additional Informational Resources

- The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services COVID-19 home page online at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 home page online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>
- **PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE ECHO:** Please join the DHSS Public Health Team from 12:00pm to 1:00pm on Wednesdays for weekly updates about important public health topics, including COVID-19. Anyone is welcome to join and ask questions.

You can join the Zoom videoconference by registering at [https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_i2syaoh3SCCTKY2U289H\\_Q](https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i2syaoh3SCCTKY2U289H_Q)

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

*K. Baker*

Kelley Baker, Health Services Division Director