



Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

NEWS RELEASE # 009

For immediate release: 07/20/2020, 2:00 p.m.

Valdez, AK – The community of Valdez received confirmation of two new non-resident cases of COVID-19 on Sunday.

One non-resident case is an adult with symptoms. They are in isolation following the guidance of public health officials and receiving follow-up care from an onsite company medical provider. The contact investigation for this case is complete. Investigation results indicates the patient, an employee of Silver Bay Seafoods, remained in quarantine during their time in Valdez. The patient is part of the same travel cohort as the non-resident cases announced in news releases 006 and 007. Public health officials believe the current risk to the community from this case is low.

The second non-resident case is an asymptomatic adult traveler. The contact investigation for this case is ongoing. Preliminary investigation indicates the patient completed pre-travel testing out of state. The patient then traveled to Alaska and quarantined in Valdez to await test results. The results of the pre-travel test were positive, but not reported to the state of Alaska. The patient completed follow-up traveler testing last week during a Providence Valdez Medical Center drive thru testing event. The results of that test were also positive and reported to DHSS Section of Epidemiology. The patient is no longer physically present in Valdez and awaiting clearance to return to their home state. Public health officials believe the risk to the community from this case is low.

Valdez must continue making thoughtful and careful decisions as long as COVID-19 remains present in Alaska and beyond. Taking small, individual actions like hand hygiene, physical distancing, wearing a cloth face covering around others, avoiding large group gatherings, and staying home when you are sick all make a big impact towards keeping our community safe.

Please continue to monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms which include a fever, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, and any new onset of illness. If you believe you have even mild symptoms, contact your healthcare provider for screening and closely follow their instructions. Remember to call ahead before you go to the doctor's office, public health clinic, or hospital. The local medical team will continue to provide the best possible care for you and our community.

Asymptomatic testing is currently available in Valdez for select high risk populations. Visit www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19 for additional information and to learn more about different local testing options.

The Valdez Unified Command and public health officials continue to closely monitor the rapidly changing course of COVID-19. We remain committed to providing information, support, and resources to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Valdez during this unprecedented time.

VALDEZ COVID-19 CASE COUNT					
Last updated 07.20.2020 2:00 p.m.					
	CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
VALDEZ RESIDENT	2	1	1	0	0
NON-RESIDENT	20	19	1	0	0

###

Contact: Allie Ferko, public information officer, Valdez Unified Command afferko@valdezak.gov, (907) 202-0711