



# Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

## NEWS RELEASE # 011

For immediate release: 07/24/2020, 9:00 p.m.

**Valdez, AK** – The community of Valdez received confirmation of five new non-resident cases of COVID-19 on Friday.

The five new non-resident cases are all adults identified during employer screening. Two are currently asymptomatic. Three have mild 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 investigations for these cases is ongoing. Preliminary investigation results indicate the patients, employees of Silver Bay Seafoods, remained in quarantine during their time in Valdez. The patients are part of the same travel cohort as the non-resident cases announced in news releases 006, 007, 009, and 010. Since the beginning of July, a total of 23 employees at the Silver Bay Seafoods Valdez plant have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Public health officials believe the current risk to the community from these cases is low due to proactive protocols put in place by the company.

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, including those who interact with the public at work and those with state of Alaska travel vouchers. Visit [www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19](http://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 ask the community to practice compassion and remember that behind every case count number is a person dealing with a difficult diagnosis. 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 07.24.2020 8:00 p.m.					
	CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
VALDEZ RESIDENT	2	0	2	0	0
NON-RESIDENT	26	24	2	0	0

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