

Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

NEWS RELEASE # 015

For immediate release: 07/30/2020, 8:00 p.m.

Valdez, AK - The community of Valdez received confirmation of a new non-resident case of COVID-19 on Thursday.

The new non-resident case is an asymptomatic adult traveler. The patient completed pre-travel testing out of state. The patient then traveled to Alaska. Their positive pre-travel test result was received several days after arrival. The patient is in isolation in a Valdez residence and following the guidance of public health officials. Close contacts of the traveler have been notified and are in quarantine. 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 <u>even mild symptoms</u>, 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 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.

ALDEZ COVID-19 CASE COUNT Last updated 07.30.2020 8:00 p.m. **CUMULATIVE** RECOVERED **HOSPITALIZATIONS DEATHS** CASES TO DATE **CASES** CASES VALDEZ 2 2 RESIDENT 4 0 NON-RESIDENT

###

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