



# Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

## NEWS RELEASE # 026

For immediate release: 09/29/2020, 8:00 p.m.

**Valdez, AK** – The community of Valdez received confirmation of its fifteenth resident case of COVID-19 on Tuesday.

The new resident case is an adult with symptoms. The patient is in isolation and following the guidance of their medical provider and public health officials. The contact investigation remains ongoing, with close contacts anticipated to be notified by Wednesday evening.

Public health officials now believe multiple recently announced Valdez cases are linked to each other. The DHSS Section of Epidemiology refers to this as a “cluster” or related cases grouped together in time and place. Officials also believe there are likely additional cases in the community not yet identified through testing. Valdez must continue making thoughtful and careful decisions as long as COVID-19 remains present in our community and beyond. Extra care should be taken when socializing both inside and outside with those not in your household or small social circle.

### Please Help Keep Valdez Safe By:

- Wearing a cloth face covering around others.
- Keeping your social circle small.
- Avoiding high risk activities such as large gatherings or social events.
- Practicing good hand & surface hygiene.
- Maintaining six feet of physical distance from others outside your household.
- Being extra cautious during travel.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Getting tested if you have symptoms.

**Do You Have Even Mild Symptoms?** Please 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.

**Local Testing Options:** Both symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 testing are currently available by appointment only in Valdez. Visit the Valdez Unified Command website ([www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19](http://www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19)) for additional information and to learn more about different local testing options.

**What is a Close Contact?** A close contact is an individual who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes during their infectious period. Close contacts must quarantine for 14 days to see if they develop symptoms and to prevent possible transmission to additional people. While close contacts cannot test out of quarantine, testing helps determine who else might be at risk. Timeline for testing of close contacts will vary depending upon their exposure date.

**Think You’ve Been Exposed to Someone with COVID-19?** Please contact the Valdez public health nurse (907.835.4612) or your medical provider for guidance.

The Valdez Unified Command and public health officials continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. **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 for our community.

VALDEZ COVID-19 CASE COUNT					
Last updated 09.29.2020 @ 8:00 p.m.					
	CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	CUMULATIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
VALDEZ RESIDENT	15	4	11	1*	0
NON-RESIDENT	28	1	27	1*	0

\*Valdez case hospitalized in ANC.

###

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