



Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

NEWS RELEASE # 035

For immediate release: 10/26/2020, 8:00 p.m.

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

Both new cases are asymptomatic adults. Both patients have been in isolation and continue to follow the guidance of their medical providers and public health officials. The contact investigations are complete. The source investigation for both cases remains ongoing. Preliminary investigation indicates that one case is travel related and that the other case is linked to a previously announced resident case.

As a community, we must continue making thoughtful and careful decisions as long as COVID-19 remains present in Valdez and beyond. Extra care should be taken when socializing both inside and outside with those not in your household or small social circle.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Isolate yourself if you feel any cold-like symptoms and get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Avoid crowded places and gatherings with anyone outside your immediate household, especially indoor gatherings; keep social circles very small.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from people outside of your household.
- Always have a mask on when you are around people outside of your household — even if you can maintain a 6-foot distance from others.
- Wash your hands often and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and objects.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, notify all of your close contacts immediately.
- Please answer the call if a public health official contacts you and follow their guidance.

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) for additional information.

What is a Close Contact? A close contact is an individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, if asymptomatic, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. 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. If you believe you’ve been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please call the Valdez Public Health Nurse (835-4612) or your medical professional 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 10.26.2020 @ 8:00 p.m.					
	CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	CUMULATIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
VALDEZ RESIDENT	28	7	20	1*	1
NON-RESIDENT	28	0	28	1*	0

*Valdez case hospitalized in ANC.

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