

## Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

## **NEWS RELEASE # 044**

For immediate release: 11/15/2020, 9:00 p.m.

**Valdez, AK** – The community of Valdez received confirmation of four new resident cases of COVID-19 and one resident hospitalization due to COVID-19 on Sunday.

Two of the new resident cases are minors with symptoms. The other two new resident cases are adults with symptoms. All four patients are in isolation and following the guidance of their medical providers and public health officials. Both the contact and source investigations for these cases remain ongoing. Preliminary investigation indicates these new cases are linked to other recent Valdez cases. Close contacts are anticipated to be notified by Monday afternoon. Please try your best to answer your phone in case your family must be notified of a possible exposure.

Additionally, one previously announced Valdez resident case was treated at Providence Valdez Medical Center on Sunday for worsening symptoms and then transferred by medivac to an Anchorage hospital.

## With Our Local Case Counts Increasing, Please Help Protect Our Community and Our Healthcare System!

- Wear a face covering when you are around <u>anyone</u> outside your household, even when you can maintain physical distancing of six feet.
- Keep your social circles small and consistent.
- Look for creative ways to minimize risk as you plan your holidays.
- Prevent additional strain on our local medical community by getting your flu shot and avoiding high risk activities which could result in injury.

Do You Have Even Mild COVID-19 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.

What is a Close Contact? A close contact is an individual who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more while they are contagious. Close contacts must quarantine for 14 days to see if they develop symptoms and to prevent possible transmission to additional people. Close contacts cannot test out of quarantine, however testing helps determine who else might be at risk. Based upon the incubation period of this virus, close contacts should be tested in their second week of quarantine if asymptomatic or as soon as possible if they develop even one symptom of COVID-19.

Think You've Been Exposed to COVID-19? Please reach out to the Valdez Public Health Nurse (835-4612) or your medical provider for guidance on next steps.

The Valdez Unified Command and public health officials continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. We remain committed to providing information, support, and resources for our community.

