

Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

NEWS RELEASE # 067 Valdez Weekly Summary

For immediate release: 03/12/2021, 6:00 p.m.

Valdez, AK – Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command provides the following local weekly summary covering developments over the last seven days.

Valdez Case Count Updates & Trends

Since the time of our last weekly summary on Mar. 5, the community of Valdez received notification of three new resident cases and zero new non-resident cases of COVID-19. As of midnight on Mar. 11, Valdez has seven active resident cases and zero active non-resident cases.

All three new resident cases are asymptomatic minors. All three are close contacts of previously announced Valdez cases.

Please Continue to Protect Our Community & Healthcare System

Continue to keep your social circle small and consistent. Continue to wear a mask which covers your mouth and nose when you are around anyone outside of your household.

Many of our recent local cases have been linked to travel outside Valdez. **If you traveled for spring break, public health officials highly recommend you complete COVID-19 testing before returning to work or school.**

Remember to stay home if you are sick. If you have even one mild symptom or think you've been exposed to the virus which causes COVID-19, arrange to be tested at one of the multiple testing locations in Valdez. Testing promptly and working cooperatively with public health contact tracers helps ensure others at risk are quickly identified to prevent further spread.

Public health officials urge our community to consider getting vaccinated once it is your turn. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing severe illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19. To learn more about the different types of vaccines, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19>.

Local COVID-19 Vaccine Update

All those over age 16 who live and/or work in Alaska are now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are both FDA authorized for individuals over age 18. The Pfizer vaccine is FDA authorized for individuals over age 16.

As of 5:00 p.m. today, 68 appointments remain available for the next Valdez vaccine POD clinic on Mar. 18 (first dose Moderna). Additional appointments will be added as Valdez receives more vaccine allocation from the state.

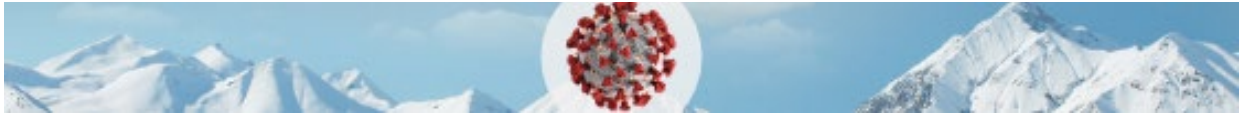
Two Valdez options exist to make vaccine appointments for those currently eligible:

- **Preferred Appointment Option:** Make a vaccination appointment online: <http://covidvax.alaska.gov>. Please note, the Valdez online scheduling button will only be shown when appointment slots are available. Those eligible should check back often if you are not able to make an appointment right away. Additional appointments will be added as Valdez is allocated more vaccine supply from the state.
- **Alternate Appointment Option:** If you do not have internet access or need help with scheduling online, you can also make a vaccination appointment by calling the DHSS Valdez Public Health Center at 907.835.4612.

Valdez parents/guardians with children age 16 or 17 interested in receiving the Pfizer vaccine should call the Valdez Public Health Clinic to express interest. This will help determine the need to specifically request Pfizer vaccine moving forward.

As of Mar. 12, the following cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered in Valdez: *(These numbers include state and IHS allocations, as well as federal allocations administered thru the Valdez public health.)*

- **Pfizer-BioNTech:** 294 first doses and 182 second doses.
- **Moderna:** 880 first doses and 563 second doses.
- **Total Administered:** 1,174 first doses and 745 second doses.



Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

Those interested in volunteering for upcoming vaccine distribution POD clinics should contact the Valdez Unified Command volunteer coordinator, Rhea Cragun, at 907.843.3416 or rcragun@valdezak.gov. All skill levels are welcome.

Valdez Testing Options

If you think you may have been exposed to the virus which causes COVID-19 or have even one mild symptom, please reach out to the Valdez Public Health Clinic or your medical provider for guidance on next steps.

Multiple options exist for both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing in Valdez. All local testing options are by appointment only and at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. Please visit the Valdez Unified Command website to learn more: <http://www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19>.

Valdez Economic Relief & Recovery

In addition to mitigating the health impacts of COVID-19 in Valdez, our community has been working diligently to address the economic impacts from the pandemic felt by residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

The City of Valdez COVID-19 Business Economic Recovery Grant Program provides financial recovery assistance to local businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19, up to \$10,000 per business. **As of Mar. 12, a total of 39 Economic Recovery Grants have been awarded.**

To learn more about the City Economic Relief & Recovery Initiative and download applications for the current Valdez Economic Recovery programs, visit: <http://www.valdezak.gov/557/Valdez-COVID-19-Economic-Relief-Recovery>.

COVID Conscious Business Program

The COVID Conscious Business Program recognizes local businesses and organizations for following recommended COVID-19 safety practices to protect their workforce, their customers/clients/guests, and our community. Program applicants must earn a minimum of 85 points from a list of COVID-19 education, planning, and prevention efforts to earn the certification. **As of Mar. 12, a total of 58 local businesses have received program certification.** To view the complete list of certified businesses, visit <http://valdezak.gov/covidaware>.

More Information

For the most up-to-date local information, please continue to monitor the Valdez Unified Command website (www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ValdezUCRG).

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