

Broyles, Randi

From: Blankenship, Johni
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:57 AM
To: Broyles, Randi
Subject: FW: KPHC Home Test Kit Update
Attachments: At home test.pdf

Please include with Ordinance 2021-19-32

From: Cox, Tyson
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 10:53 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>
Subject: KPHC Home Test Kit Update

Johni - Please forward to all Assembly Members. Thx

Tyson,

Kenai Public Health Center is still distributing test kits to those who walk in. Last week, Kenai Health Center distributed 381 kits to the walk-in public. Since mid-November, Central Kenai Peninsula total distribution is over 3000 from the health center, other facilities such as EMS and municipalities are now ordering their own. An additional 500 were distributed in Seward with other facilities now ordering for themselves in the Seward area. Homer distributes to underserved populations and to South Peninsula Hospital for distribution to the general public.

Currently CDC and State recommend utilization of at home test kits as another tool to combat COVID-19. We've been informed the Binax NOW and the QuickVUE, which are the 2 we currently distribute, do pick up Omicron. Preliminary research indicates they detect omicron, but may have reduced sensitivity. The agency noted it's still studying how the tests perform with the variant, which was first detected in late November. If you follow the directions on the test, the tests are more accurate as it may take 24 to 36 hours to get a large enough viral load for the test to measure the virus. Please take both tests as guided. Each person needs their own test kit to be effective. That is why availability of a lot of kits would be a great thing!

Omicron spreads more rapidly so the at home tests are good because people, businesses, schools can test frequently. That is how you catch infection early. Importantly, you get the results right away, helpful if you are deciding to travel, already in travel status, returning to work, school, etc. AND you can let your contacts know soon. Additionally, people feel more comfortable about gathering with family and friends. A rapid test five days after being exposed to a person who tested positive can give a good indication of whether you caught the virus.

Although Omicron is dominant in the U.S., there are other variants out there and will be more in the future so these tests are useful, convenient, and affordable if we can continue distributing them for free.

As far as hospitalizations, below are what some other states are experiencing. In RED are the cases, in ORANGE are hospitalizations. Both increasing, hospitalizations not as fast. Younger age groups and children are being hospitalized.

Here is a good visual of what is happening nation wide:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html>

Additionally, I have attached a flyer explaining at home test kits.

Please let us know if you have further questions.

Thanks so much,

Leslie

From: Felts, Leslie A (HSS)

Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 3:27 PM

To: Cox, Tyson <tysoncox@kpb.us>; Marsters, Tami J (HSS) <tami.marsters@alaska.gov>

Cc: Leslie Felts <leslie.felts@alaska.gov>

Subject: RE: Home Covid test kits

Tyson,

As of today, Kenai Peninsula Public Health Nurses have received about 5000 kits, most of which have been distributed or will be soon.

We still target Seward, Moose Pass, Hope, Cooper Landing, Sterling, Nikiski, Soldotna, Kenai, K-Beach, Anchor Point, and Homer, Seldovia and across Kachemak Bay.

Additionally, we've distributed to EMS, Senior Centers, shelters and food banks, libraries, Frontier Community services, Love Inc, law enforcement, cities, villages, and the Soldotna walk in vaccination clinic.

Thanks for your support,

Leslie

From: Felts, Leslie A (HSS)

Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 3:51 PM

To: Cox, Tyson <tysoncox@kpb.us>; Marsters, Tami J (HSS) <tami.marsters@alaska.gov>

Subject: RE: Home Covid test kits

Tyson,

Both Kenai Public Health Center and Homer Public Health Centers are distributing kits. Combined, we estimate we have received around 3000 free kits and have distributed approximately 2200 of those. We continue to order and distribute.

Popular in Kenai are people who drop into the Kenai Public Health Center to get free kits.

Additionally, we've distributed to EMS, Senior Centers, shelters and food banks, libraries, Frontier Community services, Love Inc, law enforcement, cities, villages, and the Soldotna walk in vaccination clinic.

We have distributed to the listed sites in Seward, Moose Pass, Hope, Cooper Landing, Sterling, Nikiski, Soldotna, Kenai, K-Beach, Anchor Point, and Homer.

Thank you for your interest!

Leslie

From: Tyson Cox <tysoncox907@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 4, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Marsters, Tami J (HSS) <tami.marsters@alaska.gov>
Cc: Felts, Leslie A (HSS) <leslie.felts@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: Home Covid test kits

Thank you so much for keeping me in the loop. I am following up to our conversation a week or so ago to ask if it would be possible to get an update on how many tests have been received by the KPHC, where they are being distributed, and how many have been given out thus far? Do we have plans for more? I would love to share this information with the rest of the Assembly and KPB public. Thanks for all you do :)

Tyson Cox
Assembly Member,
District 4 - Soldotna

[\(907\)252-4814](tel:(907)252-4814)
tysoncox@kpb.us

On Nov 16, 2021, at 9:39 AM, Marsters, Tami J (HSS) <tami.marsters@alaska.gov> wrote:

MR Cox,

Kenai Public Health Center has received Covid home test kits from the State.
The kits are free to the public and available for pick up at the health center M-F, 8am-5pm.
The public health nurses will distribute the kits to Businesses/nonprofits etc. in the community.
Please let me know if you are aware of specific business's etc. that would like to have the covid tests for employees or distribution to the community.
The school RN's have been notified about the home test kit availability.
Please call me if I can answer any questions. [907-335-3424](tel:907-335-3424)

Take care,
Tami

From: Marsters, Tami J (HSS)
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 3:40 PM
To: Tyson Cox <tysoncox907@gmail.com>
Cc: Leslie Felts <leslie.felts@alaska.gov>
Subject: Home Covid test kits

Mr. Cox

I did some checking into covid home test kits offered by the State. At this time the State is providing the kits to schools/students.

Maybe standing up a testing site with some of the funds would make better use of the money?

Karie Hawk, Program Coordinator, in the Section of Rural and Community Health Systems sent me the following information:

“At this time, the state is only providing the at home Binax test kits to schools/students through a federal education grant. (sorry they are not available for purchase, everything the state has available is free to communities with the understanding it will be used for the appropriate population for which it is requested)”

“We are working on getting more that could be used for people other than schools, please keep checking back to see if that has gotten approved.

As a side note: if the assembly there is adamant about purchasing for Kenai and wishes to direct order from Abbott, my state pharmacy POC said it is possible for you to purchase minimum order of 50,000 Binax at home test kits for about \$400,000.”

Karie Hawk
Program Coordinator I
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health
Section of Rural and Community Health Systems
Health Emergency Response Operations

More information about COVID testing kits provided by the State for the schools, from Elizabeth Manning , Communications Manager:

DHSS testing

guidance: <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/siteassets/pages/humanCOV/AKCOVIDAtHomeTestingGuidance.pdf>

Alaska DHSS At-Home COVID-19 Testing Information (updated 10/11/21): <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/siteassets/pages/HumanCoV/AKCOVIDTestingGuidance.pdf>

Place to go for at-home testing kits for schools: <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/covid-19/schoolyear.aspx>

COVID-19 Testing Information

All school districts have been allocated funds to cover the expenses associated with COVID-19 testing. These funds can be used to cover the costs if school staff performs testing and analysis, or to contract those activities with local health partners or labs. For more information, contact schoolhealthandsafety@alaska.gov.

- [School testing guidance \(PDF\)](#)
- [Reporting template \(Excel\)](#)

Any district, school, community, facility or organization can request at-home test kits via the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center using an ICS 213 RR-Resource Request Form. Please fill out the "quantity" and the "detailed item/need/capability description" boxes in the "requestor" section of the form and email to 2020_COVID-19@ak-prepared.com. Please include in the email a brief description of how the tests will be used to support schools providing in-person learning. For more information, download the [at-home testing flyer \(PDF\)](#) and [at-home testing guidance \(PDF\)](#).

For information about public testing for all Alaskans, please visit covid19.alaska.gov. To find a testing location near you, visit the [State of Alaska testing site locator](#).

Elizabeth Manning | *Communications Manager*

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

3601 C St., Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503

907.269.4541 | cell 907.744.4512 | elizabeth.manning@alaska.gov

[DHSS COVID-19 website](#) | [Sign-up for DHSS Alerts](#)

I will let you know if the State approves providing at home COVID tests for community members other than the schools.

Thank you for your willingness to approach this sensitive subject.
Take care,
Tami

Tami Marsters BS,RN
Public Health Nurse
Kenai Public Health Center
630 Barnacle Way Suite A
Kenai, AK 99611
907-335-3424

Tyson Cox
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Assembly Member, District 4
(907)252-4814



At-home COVID-19 tests

An over-the-counter test is a **convenient** option for anyone who needs to get tested for COVID-19. These tests can be **self-administered** at home or anywhere and are designed to be **easy to use**. Sold through stores and pharmacies, these tests can be a useful tool to protect your health and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

When to use an over-the-counter test

- If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of your vaccination status, you can use an over-the-counter test to get fast and accurate results.
- If you are a close contact to someone with COVID-19 and you are not experiencing any symptoms, testing recommendations will vary depending on vaccination status and history of prior COVID-19 diagnosis. Visit this [DHSS webpage](#) for more information.
- When using an over-the-counter test, precisely follow the instructions provided in the test kit box.

What to do after you receive your results

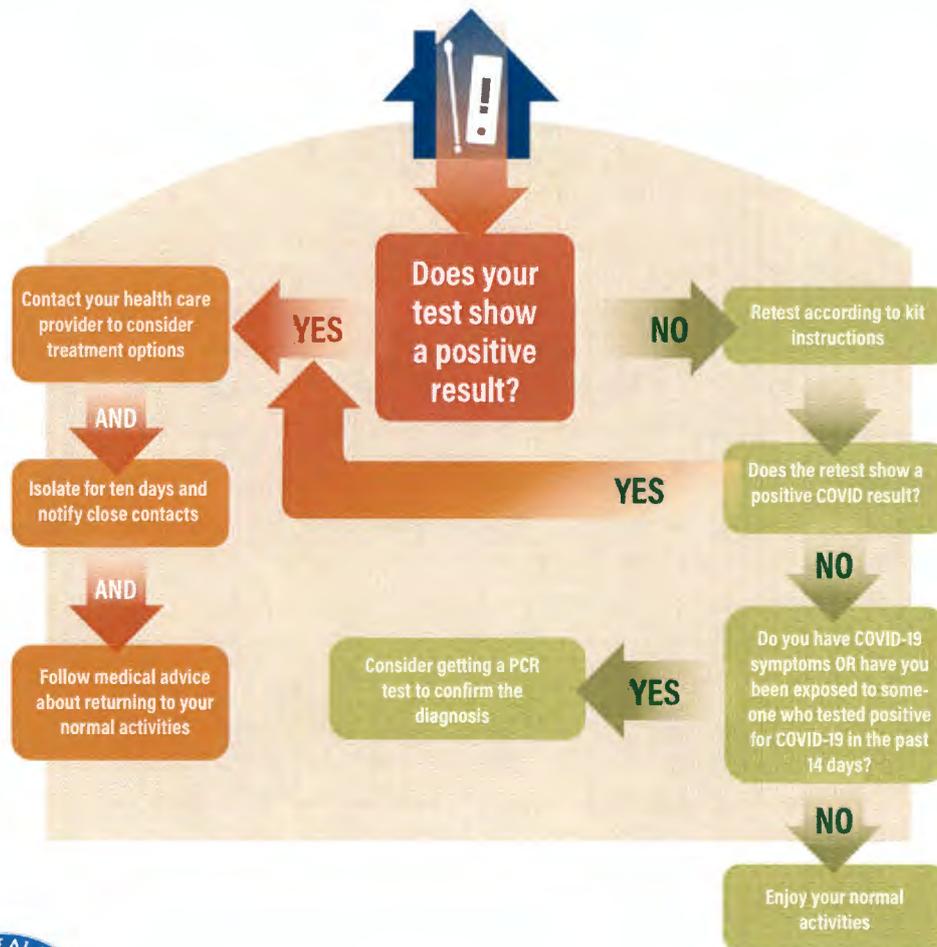
- Many over-the-counter tests include two tests. If your first test is negative, retest according to the test kit instructions (usually within 1-3 days).
- Symptomatic individuals who receive two negative test results should consider getting a more sensitive test, such as a PCR test. False negatives are not common but do occur.
- If you test positive, isolate immediately and inform any close contacts.
- Share positive test results with your health care provider to learn about possible treatment options or any other appropriate medical follow-up you might need.
- If the test kits were provided to you or self-testing was requested by a school, workplace, event, or other group or organization, they might ask you to share your results with them. If so, contact tracing might also be initiated by the requester.
- Please note: The Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH) is not currently performing contact tracing on positive results from over-the-counter tests. Reporting over-the-counter test results to DPH is not currently required. You can still call Public Health Contact Tracing at 907-531-3329 for questions, education, and resources.
- For more information on what to do next, visit the [DHSS website](#) or the CDC's webpage, *If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone*.

Where to get over-the-counter tests

- Over-the-counter test kits are available over the counter, without a prescription, in a pharmacy or retail store. Many pharmacies and stores also sell them online. Having a COVID-19 self-test in your medicine cabinet is a simple way to get quick results on your health status.
- Alaska's public health centers and some schools are also providing these tests to those in need. Please check locally with your public health center if you need help acquiring over-the-counter COVID-19 test kits.

More information

- All the needed materials (including a nasal swab and easy-to-follow instructions) are included in the box.
- Each over-the-counter test kit comes with two cards for two separate tests. If either one of the two test results are positive, people should consider themselves positive. A subsequent negative card does not overrule a positive.
- When travelling, carefully review the testing requirements for each destination. Some places may consider over-the-counter test results insufficient for entry.
- More information about over-the-counter tests is available on the [CDC self-testing webpage](#).



Visit the [CDC self-testing webpage](#) for more information about these tests.
Call 1-907-531-3329 for more information about isolation and notifying close contacts

Broyles, Randi

From: Blankenship, Johni
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Broyles, Randi
Subject: FW: Alaska DHSS Info

From: Cox, Tyson
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 10:50 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>
Subject: Alaska DHSS Info

Johni - Please forward to all Assembly Members. Thx

Tyson,

I will send you the email you requested with specific information regarding at home test kits.

In the meantime, here is a weekly report we receive. Perhaps it can give you some background information.

Thank you,

Leslie

From: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services <AlaskaDHSS@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Felts, Leslie A (HSS) <leslie.felts@alaska.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 Alaska Weekly Case Update: December 19 — December 25, 2021



**Alaska Department of Health & Social Services Weekly Case Update
December 19 — December 25, 2021**

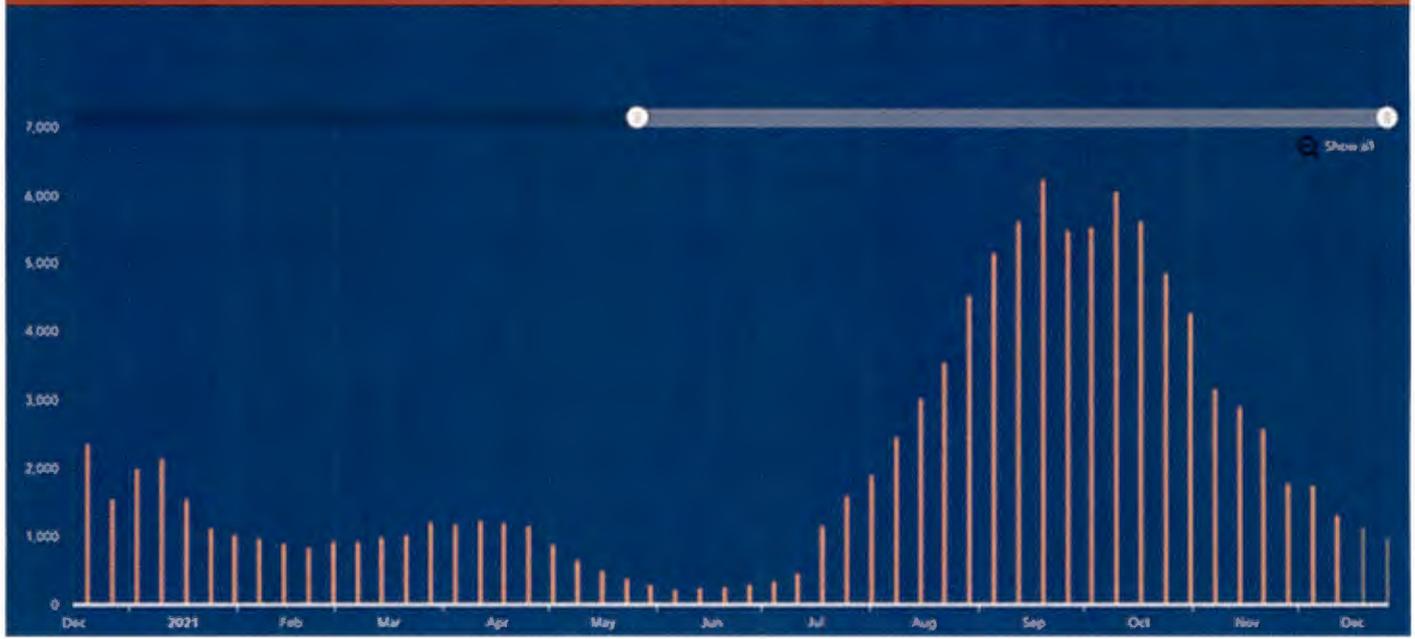


| Statewide transmission R _t 0.87 | Statewide alert status 139.9 | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Red- Rt >1.2 Orange- Rt 1-1.2 Yellow- Rt <1 | 7-day case rate per 100,000 population. Red- ≥100 Orange- 50-99.99 Yellow- 10-49.99 Blue- 0-9.99 | Multiple facilities continue to have a high number of inpatients, which results in delays in admitting patients from emergency departments as well as other operational challenges. | Red->5% Orange- 2-5% Yellow- <2% | This includes people with at least one dose. Estimated AK population 5 and older of 680,580 from the AK Department of Labor & Workforce Development. |

Case Trends

- Alaska currently has the forty-fifth highest number of cases in the last seven days per 100,000 population among the 50 states.
- Hospital capacity has been strained during the Delta variant wave of COVID-19 such that in some hospitals, it may become difficult to care for everyone who needs care, even for non-COVID health concerns. Some care may need to be delayed, there may be long wait times, and hospital beds may not be available.
 - Hospitalizations are continuing to occur in younger Alaskans, with the median age of persons hospitalized due to COVID-19 in 2021 being about 5 years younger than in 2020.
 - Among those hospitalized due to COVID-19 and with specimen collection dates from January 16, 2021 through December 25, 2021, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated patients had a median age 14 years younger than fully vaccinated patients.

COVID-19 Cases by Week



- Substantial or high levels of COVID-19 transmission are occurring throughout much of Alaska and dozens of Alaskans are hospitalized with COVID-19 each week.
- 1,076 cases were reported in Alaskans the week of December 19–December 25. This is a 0.75% increase from the number of cases reported the week before. Larger numbers of cases have been reported since December 25, indicating an upwards trajectory.
- The number of new COVID-19 cases has increased in the Anchorage Municipality, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the City and Borough of Juneau. All four have also experienced recent increases in percent positivity, which suggests that this pattern reflects increased incidence of COVID-19 and is not an artifact of testing. There is not a clear upwards or downwards trajectory in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- The intensity of COVID-19 transmission varies substantially between communities outside the largest boroughs. COVID-19 cases are regularly reported from nearly all boroughs and census areas and some communities are experiencing widespread transmission.
- Community transmission of the Omicron variant has been identified in Anchorage. The proportion of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Alaska currently due to the Omicron variant is unclear, but preliminary laboratory evidence suggests that the number of cases due to the Omicron variant is rapidly increasing in Alaska and contributing to the overall rise in cases.

COVID-19 Guidance

Take action now to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and preserve health care capacity.

- Please get vaccinated if you haven't already and get a booster dose if you are eligible (see below for more information). Currently available COVID vaccines will help protect you, your family, and your community against COVID-19.

- Wearing a mask when in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status is an important step to take to slow the spread of COVID-19. Most Alaskans live in an area with substantial or high community transmission where this action is needed to protect your health and the health of others.
- Continue to avoid crowds and practice social distancing – particularly when indoors.
- Seek testing if you have any symptoms or have been exposed to an infected person. If you do test positive, isolate right away, and notify your contacts. Ask them to get tested and to quarantine. The [CDC recommends](#) people should quarantine if they are unvaccinated, more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (and not yet boosted), or more than 2 months out from their Janssen vaccine (and not yet boosted).
- If you test positive and you're at increased risk for severe COVID, consider obtaining monoclonal antibody treatment or oral antivirals. These have been shown to be effective treatments for reducing the risk of hospitalization. These treatments work best when given early.
- Persons at high risk include but are not limited to persons who are elderly, immunocompromised, obese, pregnant, or have certain chronic underlying medical conditions.

Borough/Census Area Alert Level Trends

- Alert levels are based on the case counts over the past 7 days as well as the daily number of reported cases over the past 7 days per 100,000 population.
- Alert levels have been changed to more closely mirror CDC's community transmission indicator and are calculated by borough and census area, rather than by region.

| Borough/Census Area | Alert Level December 6 | | Alert Level December 13 | | Alert Level December 20 | | Alert Level December 27 | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| | Count | Rate | Count | Rate | Count | Rate | Count | Rate |
| Anchorage Municipality | 570 | 200.4 | 488 | 161.3 | 435 | 150.5 | 393 | 130.0 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 144 | 148.2 | 91 | 93.7 | 123 | 126.6 | 125 | 128.7 |
| Juneau City and Borough | 59 | 165.7 | 83 | 198.5 | 55 | 173.1 | 73 | 229.8 |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 117 | 198.5 | 74 | 125.6 | 72 | 122.2 | 78 | 132.4 |
| Matanuska-Susitna Region | 286 | 208.5 | 217 | 202.3 | 181 | 168.7 | 107 | 99.7 |
| Nome Census Area | 65 | 665.4 | 58 | 503.7 | 45 | 400.5 | 19 | 194.5* |
| North Slope Borough | 12 | 122.0* | 8 | 81.9* | 4 | ** | 6 | 61.4* |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 74 | 975.9 | 35 | 461.0 | 17 | 224.2* | 15 | 197.8* |
| Chugach Census Area | 4 | ** | 1 | ** | 10 | 148.1* | 2 | ** |
| Copper River Census Area | 17 | 629.9* | 7 | 250.4* | 3 | — | 0 | 222.3* |
| Denali Borough | 3 | — | 0 | ** | 0 | ** | 1 | ** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area | 4 | ** | 8 | 115.3* | 2 | ** | 7 | 100.9* |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area | 1 | ** | 3 | ** | 17 | 337.0* | 1 | ** |
| Haines Borough | 3 | ** | 0 | ** | 4 | ** | 0 | ** |
| Petersburg Borough | 13 | 407.7* | 3 | ** | 6 | 189.1* | 6 | 188.1* |
| Sitka City and Borough | 10 | 117.3* | 28 | 305.1 | 23 | 269.9 | 29 | 340.3 |
| Skagway Municipality | 2 | ** | 1 | ** | 1 | ** | 1 | ** |
| Wrangell City and Borough | 4 | ** | 1 | ** | 0 | ** | 1 | ** |
| Yakutat plus Hoonah-Angoon | 1 | ** | 1 | ** | 3 | ** | 9 | 330.9* |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | 104 | 760.4 | 67 | 489.9 | 52 | 380.2 | 82 | 380.2 |
| Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area | 29 | 377.7 | 13 | 213.5* | 7 | 114.9* | 7 | 114.9* |
| Bethel Census Area | 79 | 442.1 | 40 | 223.9 | 31 | 173.5 | 18 | 160.7* |
| Kusilvak Census Area | 64 | 791.3 | 55 | 680.0 | 52 | 642.9 | 36 | 432.7 |
| Aleutians East Borough | 0 | ** | 1 | ** | 0 | ** | 1 | ** |
| Aleutians West Census Area | 1 | ** | 2 | ** | 0 | ** | 4 | ** |
| Dillingham Census Area | 23 | 481.0 | 13 | 272.4* | 5 | ** | 7 | 146.7* |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 13 | 103.1* | 19 | 150.7* | 8 | 63.4* | 12 | 103.1* |
| Bristol Bay plus Lake and Peninsula | 10 | 413.2* | 5 | ** | 3 | ** | 3 | ** |
| Statewide | 1,715 | 235.3 | 1,278 | 175.3 | 1,160 | 159.1 | 1,020 | 139.9 |

*Rates based on <20 observations are statistically unreliable and should be used with caution.

**Rates based on <6 observations are not reported.

Vaccination Status

- Anyone aged ≥5 years in Alaska is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you have received an initial dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, be sure to get your second dose too.
- Everyone ≥18 years old who received the primary series of an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine ≥6 months ago should receive a booster dose.
- For people who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, a booster dose (either the Janssen vaccine again or an mRNA vaccine) is recommended for anyone aged ≥18 years who was vaccinated ≥2 months ago.
- Adolescents aged 16 and 17 who received the primary series of the Pfizer vaccine ≥6 months ago may receive a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

- Learn more about who should get a booster dose and to find COVID-19 vaccines near you at covidvax.alaska.gov.
- CDC [recommends](#) that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of an mRNA vaccine.
- Vaccinated persons with immunocompromising conditions should discuss with their health care providers the need for additional personal protective measures.
- To schedule your vaccine appointment visit covidvax.alaska.gov or call [907-646-3322](tel:907-646-3322).
- To find clinics in your area you can visit vaccines.gov or text your zip code to GETVAX (438829) in English, or VACUNA (822862) for Spanish.
- The Alaska [vaccine dashboard](#) is available online for the most up-to-date data.

Borough/Census Area Vaccination Coverage

This is the percent of Alaskans aged ≥5 years who received one or more doses of vaccine.

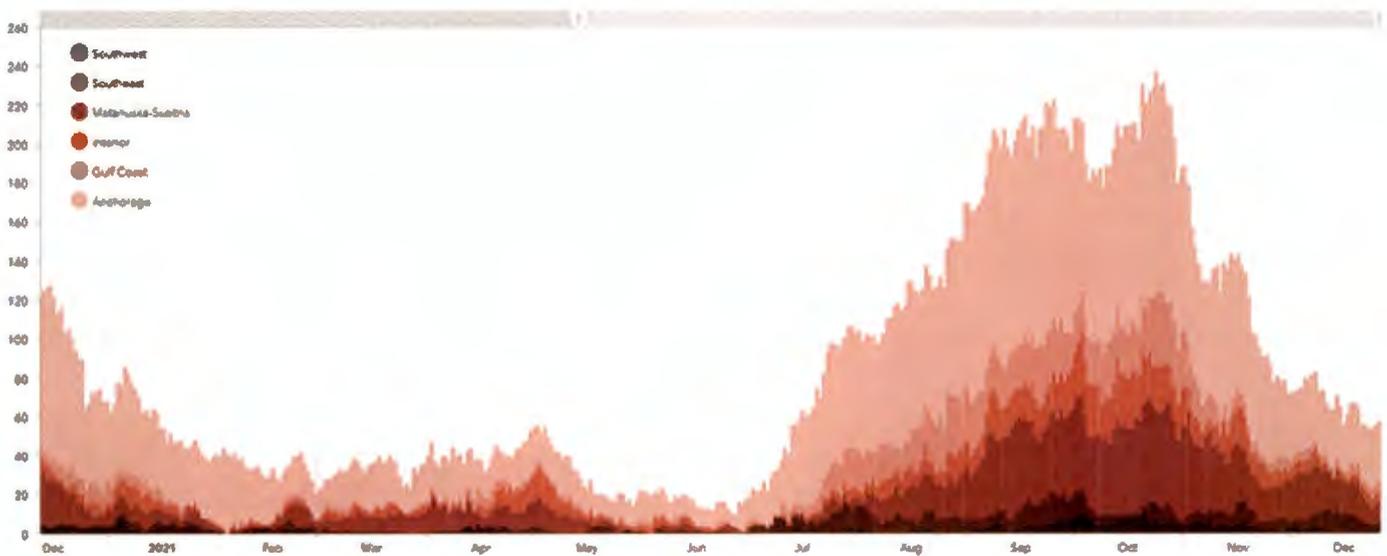
| Borough/Census Area | December 27 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aleutians East Borough | 95% |
| Aleutians West Census Area | 74% |
| Anchorage Municipality | 75% |
| Bethel Census Area | 80% |
| Bristol Bay plus Lake and Peninsula | 77% |
| Denali Borough | 75% |
| Dillingham Census Area | 65% |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 67% |
| Haines Borough | 72% |
| Juneau City and Borough | 84% |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 53% |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | 71% |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 73% |
| Kusilvak Census Area | 80% |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 45% |
| Nome Census Area | 82% |
| North Slope Borough | 42% |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 67% |
| Petersburg Borough | 68% |
| Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area | 69% |
| Sitka City and Borough | 82% |
| Skagway Municipality | 82% |
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area | 39% |
| Valdez-Cordova Census Area | 65% |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Wrangell City and Borough | 65% |
| Yakutat plus Hoonah-Angoon | 80% |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area | 83% |
| Statewide | 67.5% |

New Hospitalizations and Deaths

- Cumulative hospitalizations increased by 44 to 3,248. Hospitalization reports often lag when a case was initially reported.
- 6.7% of hospitalized patients in Alaska had COVID-19 as of December 27, 2021.
- On December 25th there were 55 persons with COVID-19 in AK hospitals, which is a 15.4% decrease relative to the week before when there were 65 persons hospitalized.
- The cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths among Alaska residents increased by 30 to 945. It is common to take some time for a death to be reported and verified, and deaths that occurred during December 19–December 25 may be reported in the future after death certificates are reviewed.

Total Confirmed COVID Beds Occupied



Variant Tracking

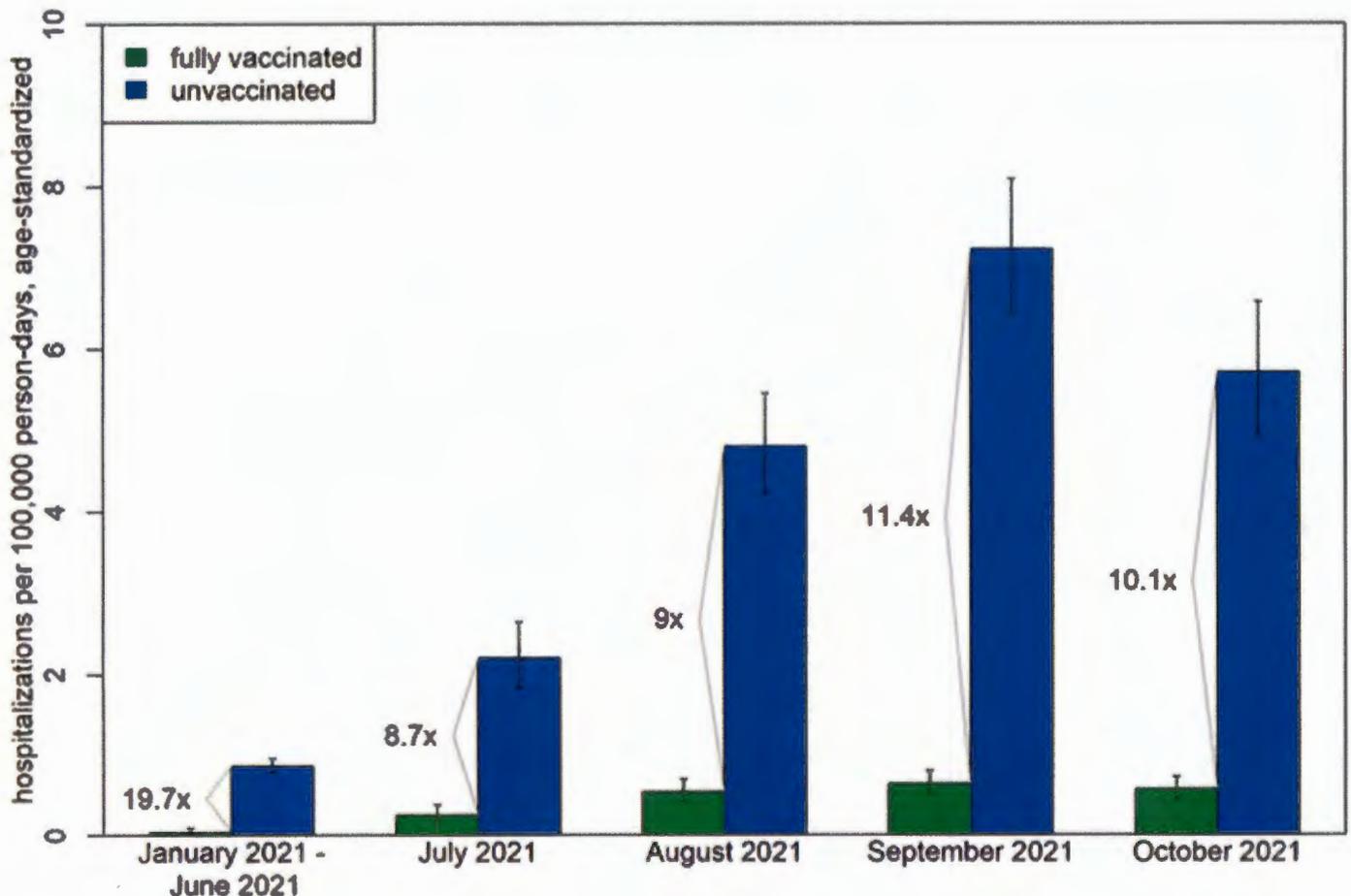
The most recent Genomic Surveillance data can be found on the [“COVID-19 Variants”](#) tab of the Cases Dashboard.

| Variants of Concern | Cases Identified | Change from Previous Report | First Identified in Alaska Report |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Delta (B.1.617.2-like) | 6,239 | +42 | 30 May 2021 |
| Omicron (B.1.1.529-like) | 6 | +5 | 29 November 2021 |
| | | | |
| Variants Being Monitored | Cases Identified | Change from Previous Report | First Identified in Alaska Report |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|---|------------------|
| Alpha (B.1.1.7) | 466 | 0 | 20 December 2020 |
| Beta (B.1.351) | 7 | 0 | 20 March 2021 |
| Epsilon (B.1.427/429) | 144 | 0 | 24 December 2020 |
| Eta (B.1.525) | 1 | 0 | 16 March 2021 |
| Gamma (P.1/P.1.1/P.1.2) | 77 | 0 | 8 February 2021 |
| Iota (B.1.526) | 24 | 0 | 4 February 2021 |
| Mu (B.1.621) | 161 | 0 | 6 May 2021 |
| Zeta (P.2) | 4 | 0 | 27 January 2021 |

Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

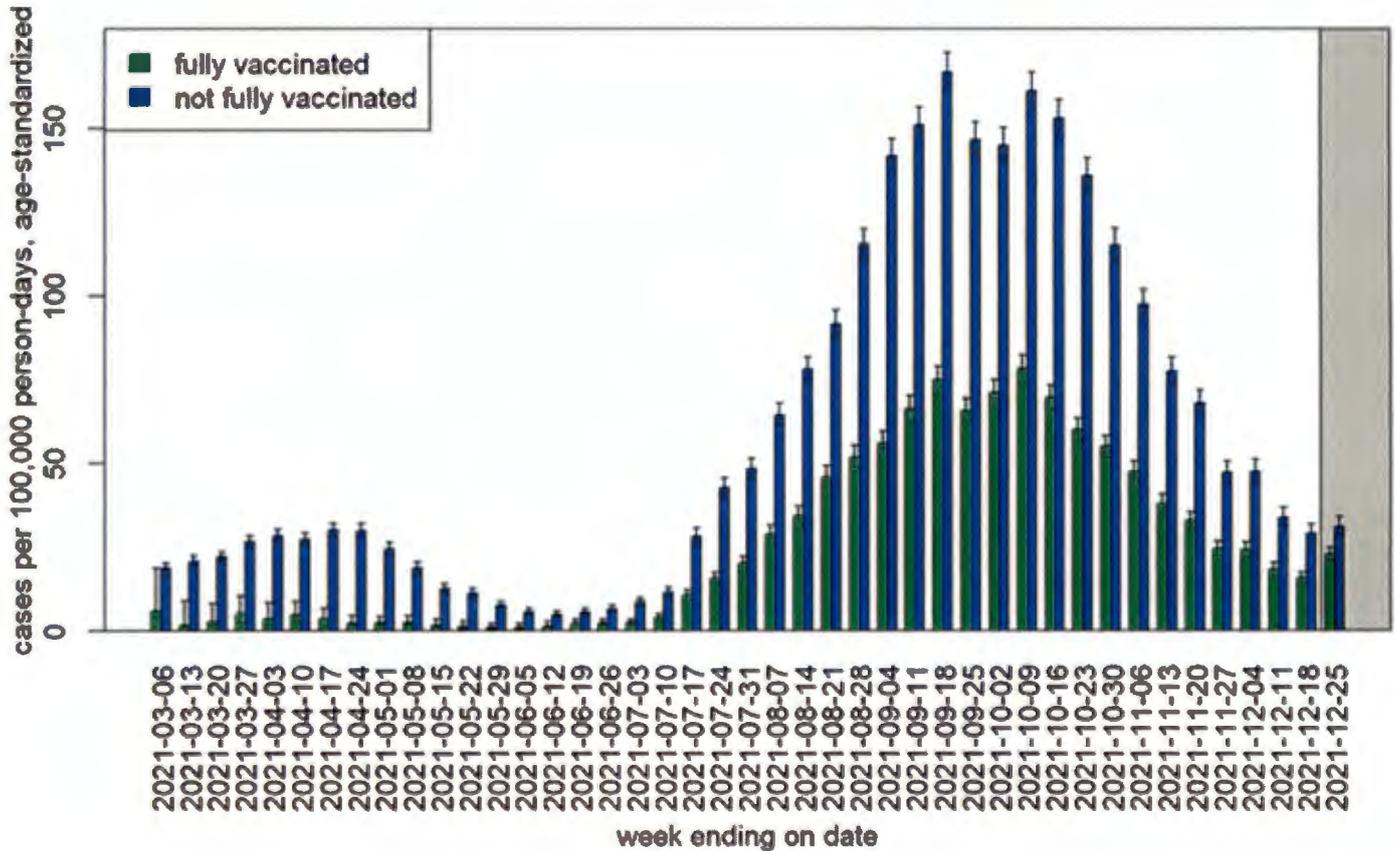
- Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID-19 are those detected in a person who is at least 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series.
- Alaska residents who are fully vaccinated are much less likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 than those who are not fully vaccinated. (Age-standardized per capita rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations by vaccination status are updated monthly.)



- The following updated VB data are among Alaska residents aged ≥ 5 years with a specimen collection date from January 16–December 25, 2021.
 - From January 16–December 25, 2021, 112 deaths, 344 hospitalizations, and 25,954 cases with a VB infection were reported among Alaska residents aged ≥ 5 years. These counts are provisional

and subject to change as data are compiled and reviewed. In that same time frame, a total of 94,696 cases, 2,037 hospitalizations, and 634 deaths were reported.

- 73% of all cases, 83% of all hospitalizations, and 82% of deaths among Alaska residents aged ≥5 years from January 16–December 25, 2021 were in people who were not fully vaccinated.
- More detailed information about hospitalizations, deaths, repeat and vaccine breakthrough infections among Alaska residents can also be found in the [monthly report](#), which includes data through October.
- Age-standardized per capita rates of COVID-19 cases by vaccination status are updated weekly. Some COVID-19 cases with specimen collection in the immediate past week (indicated by the grey box) may have not yet been reported or counted.



- The following table shows by region the number of vaccine breakthrough cases and the number of cases among persons who are not fully vaccinated.

| Region | Cases (December 19–December 25) | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Vaccine breakthrough (All ages) | Not fully vaccinated (All ages) |
| Anchorage Municipality | 256 | 279 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 84 | 82 |
| Juneau City and Borough | 36 | 44 |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 27 | 53 |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 51 | 101 |
| Northwest Region | 23 | 14 |
| Other Interior Region | 10 | 5 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|
| Other Southeast Region - Northern | 16 | 28 |
| Other Southeast Region - Southern | 26 | 28 |
| Southwest Region | 17 | 9 |
| Y-K Delta Region | 31 | 16 |

**To protect privacy, data are excluded from rows in which any value is <5.

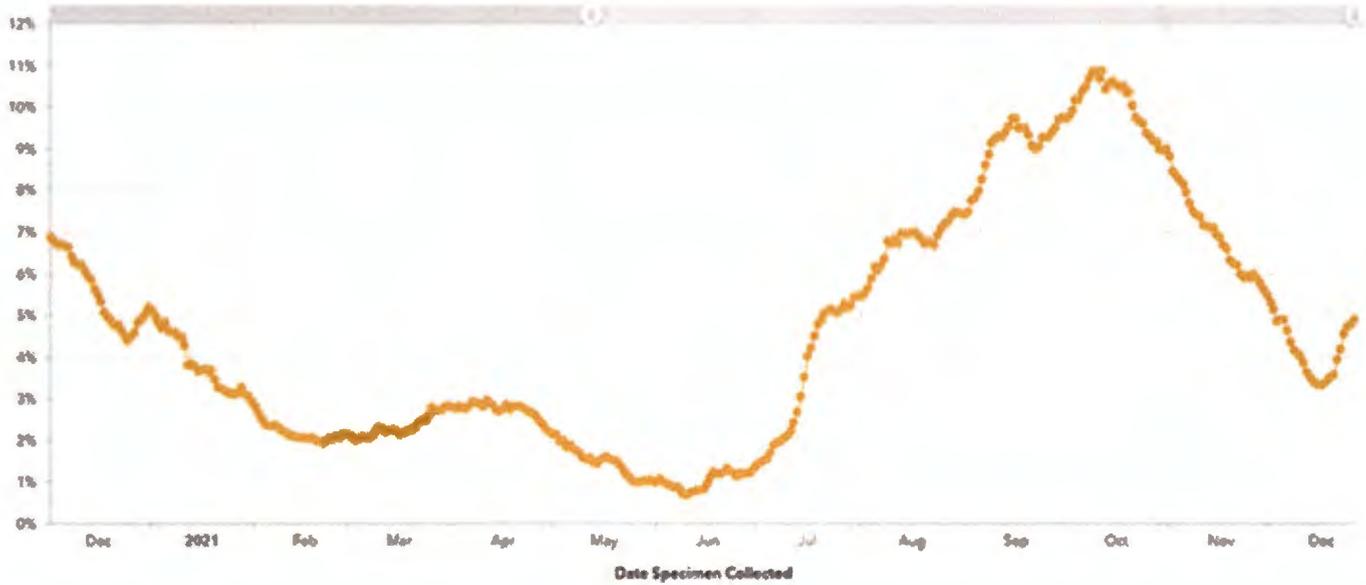
A variety of factors may affect the proportion of vaccine breakthrough cases by region. In communities with higher vaccination coverage, a larger proportion of cases is expected to occur among fully vaccinated persons. Other potential factors include the extent of prior infection in a region and differences in testing practices between regions.

COVID-19 Communication Resources

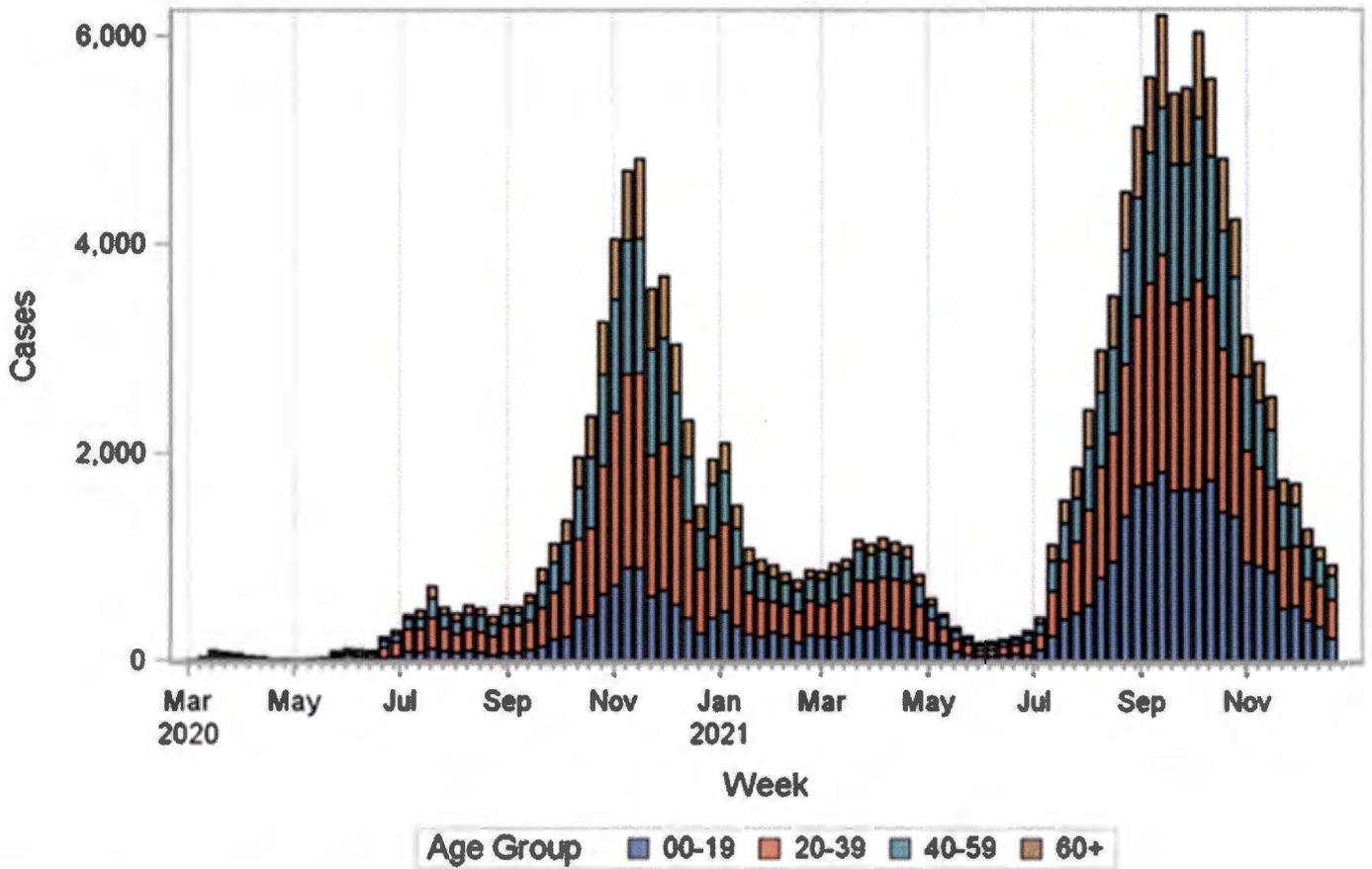
- DHSS Insights Blog: [Celebrate the Holidays Safely](#)
- Revised webpages:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for all Alaskans](#)
 - [COVID-19 treatments for hospitalized patient](#)
 - [COVID-19 Outpatient Treatment](#)
 - [Guidance for COVID-19 Testing in Alaska](#)
- New video PSAs to share:
 - [16+ Booster Dose](#)
 - [Bring Back the Light](#)
 - [Pediatric Vaccine](#)
 - [Holiday Vaccine](#)
 - [Home Test](#)
 - [Home Test Social Media](#)
 - [Pediatric Vaccine: Dr. Adam Grove](#)
 - [Boosters for anyone 18+](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines for Ages 5+](#)
 - [Holiday Flu](#)
 - [Why Not Get Vaccinated?](#)
 - [Layer up, Alaska!](#)
- Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Flyer: [5 Reasons to Vaccinate for Ages 5+](#)
- Over-the-Counter Testing Flyer: [At-home COVID-19 tests](#)
- Request support from DHSS
 - DHSS offers free presentations upon request to groups about COVID-19, the vaccines, COVID-19 prevention, or other health topics upon request. Learn more or request a presentation on our [Speaker's Bureau web page](#).
 - DHSS offers support for one-time or reoccurring COVID-19 vaccination events. Submit your request for support and provide information about the event by [filling out this form](#).

- Can't tune into a live ECHO videoconference but don't want to miss out on the latest updates? The full schedule of ECHO sessions and access to COVID-19 ECHO videos and slideshows are available for download anytime on the [DHSS ECHO web page](#).

Statewide Percentage of Daily Tests with Positive Results (Seven day rolling average)

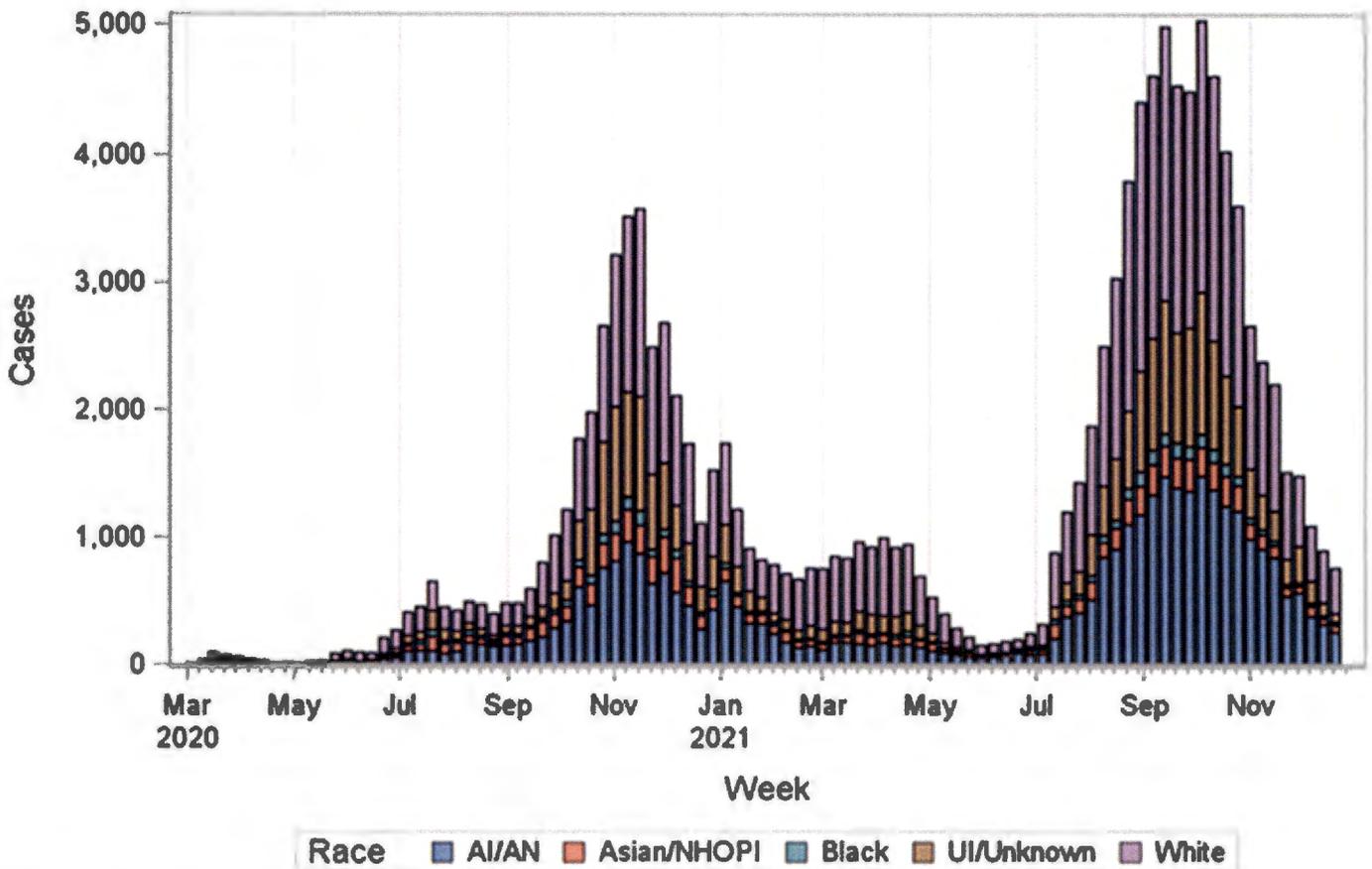


Cases by Week of Onset and Age



Note: Quality assurance efforts are ongoing to attribute cases to the correct date on the onset date epi curve. Some recent cases will be reattributed to different weeks.

Cases by Week of Onset and Race



Note: Quality assurance efforts are ongoing to attribute cases to the correct date on the onset date epi curve. Some recent cases will be reattributed to different weeks. Race abbreviations include AI/AN (American Indian or Alaska Native), Asian/NHOPI (Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander), and UI/Unknown (Under investigation or unknown).

Additional informational resources:

- The State of Alaska [COVID-19 vaccine status update page](#)
- The State of Alaska [COVID-19 information page](#) provides more information about the virus and how individuals and businesses can protect themselves and others from transmission.
- For the most up-to-date case information, see the Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub dashboard: data.coronavirus.alaska.gov. All dashboard data are updated Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (except [holidays](#)).
- For DHSS media inquiries, please contact clinton.bennett@alaska.gov

Additional ECHO session details:

Updated December 30, 2021



UAA Center for
Human Development
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



**These ECHO sessions are produced and facilitated by
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Important Note: Most Division of Public Health ECHO series will be taking a break from December 20-December 31 for the winter holidays. Please check [individual ECHO registration pages](#) for additional information on holiday scheduling.

[Session information and recordings of previous ECHO sessions](#)
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