

## Press Release

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### One Utqiagvik resident tests positive for COVID-19

**October 1, 2020 - Utqiagvik, Alaska:** (New cases) Arctic Slope Native Association has been notified that one (1) Utqiagvik resident has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual has been instructed to self-isolate.

Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital and the North Slope Borough Health Department are in contact with the individuals, and will continue to provide monitoring if on slope. The North Slope Borough contact tracing team will continue to reach out to individuals who may have been exposed and will provide additional information on appropriate precautions. *The medical team at SSMH strongly recommends that residents participate in COVID-19 testing especially if experiencing symptoms. Individuals experiencing symptoms should call SSMH COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-852-4622. Other recommendations to prevent the spread include: stay 6 feet apart from other people, limit social contact, wear a facemask in public, and wash hands frequently.*

(Recovered cases) One (1) North Slope resident has met the CDC guidelines and has been released from isolation.

(Active cases) Currently, there are forty-one (41) active cases, including non-residents, in the Arctic Slope region.

(Cumulative total) The North Slope Borough has a cumulative total of one hundred thirty-four (134) resident cases to date. Please note that an individual previously reported to be an Utqiagvik resident was discovered to be a non-resident of the North Slope and is now accounted for correctly.

SSMH is committed to providing COVID-19 testing for anyone in the community who believes they may have been exposed, and encourages the community to continue practicing precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease. Please be aware that several North Slope communities have recently implemented travel restrictions. If you need testing prior to traveling, please contact the SSMH COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-852-4622.

Testing is available every day from 8am until 7pm at the old North Slope Borough Transit Station facility at 1710 Ahkovak Street, located near the airport. This location will accommodate testing for each in-bound Alaska Airlines flight, as well as drive-thru capability. The tests are available with no out-of-pocket costs, and may be repeated every seven (7) days.