Press Release
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43 Individuals test positive for COVID-19;
Highly contagious Omicron is spreading quickly

January 25, 2022 - Utqiagvik, Alaska: (New cases) As of 12m today, the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) was notified that forty-three (43) individuals tested positive for COVID-19. Thirty-two (32) are residents of Utqiagvik, one of the thirty-two tested and is isolating off slope. Eleven (11) are residents of four North Slope Borough communities. All individuals have been instructed to isolate. Anyone who is waiting for test results or have tested positive on a home test kit, please self-isolate.

(Recovered cases) Thirty-three (33) individuals have met the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and have been released from isolation.

(Active cases) Currently, there are one hundred eighty-two (182) active cases in the ASNA health care service area, including non-residents.

Atqasuk - 4  Nuiqsut - 11  Utqiagvik - 132
Kaktovik - 8  Point Lay - 7  Wainwright - 20

(Vaccination total) Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH) and the North Slope Borough (NSB) have administered a total of three thousand six hundred ninety (3,690) first doses, and three thousand six hundred forty-nine (3,649) second doses of Pfizer or single dose Janssen vaccine to date. It is recommended that individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccine should continue to practice preventive measures to reduce the spread of the virus.

(Hospitalizations & Deaths) Currently, due to COVID-19, there are two (2) hospitalizations at SSMH. To date, the SSMH has a cumulative total of eighty (80) hospitalizations due to the virus. The North Slope Borough has a cumulative total of eight (8) residents who have passed away to date.

(Cumulative total) The North Slope Borough has a cumulative total of three thousand one hundred thirty-four (3,134) resident cases to date. This includes three hundred eighty-six (386) North Slope Borough residents who are self-isolating outside of the ASNA health care service area, as reported by the NSB Health Department.

Children ages 5-17 years may receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment please call SSMH COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Line at (907) 852-9156 or (907) 367-6292. Appointments are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am-4:30pm. The vaccine has no out-of-pocket costs.

SSMH Rapid Response Teams are providing vaccinations in the villages. SSMH teams have been to all villages within the ASNA service area to provide the vaccine to all interested residents, with
SSMH activated its incident command structure on March 16, 2020 to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. SSMH is also working with the NSB Emergency Operations Center, NSB Health Department, and is communicating daily with regional community leaders.


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