Press Release  
Contact: Tim Rowe, Public Information Officer  
Phone: 907.852.9264  
Email: timothy.rowe@arcticslope.org

24 Individuals test positive for COVID-19; FDA and CDC approve vaccines for ages 6 months – 5 years old

July 18, 2022 - Utqiagvik, Alaska: (New cases) Over the weekend, including 12pm today, the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) was notified that fifteen (15) Utqiagvik residents, four (4) non-resident of the North Slope Borough in Utqiagvik, and five (5) residents of two North Slope Borough communities have tested positive for COVID-19. Individuals waiting for test results or have tested positive on a home test kit, please self-isolate.

(Recovered cases) Sixty-four (64) individuals have met the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and have been released from isolation.

(Active cases) Forty-two (42) active cases in the ASNA healthcare service area, including non-residents.

- Atqasuk - 0
- Nuiqsut - 0
- Kaktovik - 1
- Point Lay - 4
- Utqiagvik - 37
- Wainwright - 0

(Hospitalizations & Deaths) Due to COVID-19, there is one (1) hospitalization at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH). SSMH has a cumulative total of ninety-seven (98) hospitalizations. The North Slope Borough has a cumulative total of thirteen (13) who have passed away.

(Cumulative total) The North Slope Borough has a cumulative total of four thousand one hundred seventy-four (4,174) resident cases to date.

COVID-19 vaccine walk-ins or appointments are available, please call SSMH Appointment Line at (907) 852-9380. The vaccine has no out-of-pocket costs. SSMH staff are also offering the vaccine in the village clinics. Questions? Please email covidvaccine@arcticslope.org.

SSMH is committed to providing COVID-19 testing. Hours of operation on Fridays are 4pm – 6pm, and Saturdays to Thursdays from 1pm – 6pm at the old NSB Transit Station facility at 1710 Ahkovak Street, located near the airport. Tests acquired at SSMH or the testing center are available with no out-of-pocket costs.

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Cough
- Fever
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Sneezing/Runny Nose
- Headache
- Loss of smell or taste
- Stomach ache

SSMH activated its incident command structure on March 16, 2020 to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. SSMH is communicating with regional entities.

Please continue to follow the CDC recommendations against COVID-19. More information on protecting yourself can be found at http://www.cdc.gov

###