

Press Release

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

July 20, 2022 - Utqiagvik, Alaska: (New cases) As of 12pm today, the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) was notified that eleven (11) Utqiagvik residents and six (6) 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) Nineteen (19) individuals have met the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and have been released from isolation.

(Active cases) Forty-eight (48) active cases in the ASNA healthcare service area, including non-residents.

Atkasuk - 1

Kaktovik - 1

Nuiqsut - 5

Point Lay - 0

Utqiagvik - 41

Wainwright - 0

(Hospitalizations & Deaths) Due to COVID-19, there are two (2) hospitalizations at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH). SSMH has a cumulative total of ninety-nine (99) 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 two hundred four (4,204) 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
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell or taste
- Body aches
- Sneezing/Runny Nose
- 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>

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