

Press Release

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**Weekly COVID-19 Summary
26 Individuals Test Positive for COVID-19**

February 21, 2023 - Utqiagvik, Alaska: (New cases) As of 12pm today, the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) was notified that sixteen (16) Utqiagvik residents, nine (9) residents of four (4) North Slope Borough communities, and one (1) non-resident of the North Slope Borough have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past week. **Individuals waiting for test results or who have tested positive on a home test kit, please self-isolate.**

(Active cases) Fifteen (15) active cases are in the ASNA health care service area, including non-residents.

Atkasuk - 1

Nuiqsut - 0

Utqiagvik - 14

Kaktovik - 0

Point Lay - 0

Wainwright - 0

(Hospitalizations & Deaths) Due to COVID-19, there are no (0) hospitalizations at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH). SSMH has a cumulative total of one hundred-seven (107) hospitalizations. The North Slope Borough has a cumulative total of thirteen (13) residents who have passed away.

(Cumulative total) The North Slope Borough (NSB) has a cumulative total of four thousand five hundred ninety (4,590) resident cases to date.

(Alert Levels) As of February 7: The current statewide alert level - based on the reported number of cases per 100,000 people over the past 7 days - is low at 105.78 cases per 100,000. As defined by CDC, North Slope Borough’s community level is medium. Reported cases: 26 over the past 7 days.

Influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 are all actively circulating in our communities. Please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer as much as you can, wear a mask when you are sick, cover your sneezes and coughs, and don’t be around children and elders when you are sick as you might make them sick. Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations are available. COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available, please call the 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.

SSMH is committed to providing community testing. Testing will now include Influenza-A, Influenza-B, COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) diagnoses. Testing is available at the SSMH Emergency Department. Tests acquired at SSMH are available with no out-of-pocket costs.

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