Customers, partners, and employees: YKHC is here for you and your family. YKHC is making decisions related to COVID-19 based on guidance from the CDC, the State of Alaska and other experts. We are erring on the side of caution and in the best interests of our employees, customers and communities.

YKHC is publishing a situational report to provide an update on our COVID-19 response and planning. Here is this week’s report.

Testing Update

As of 12 p.m. June 26, YKHC has performed 4948 tests — 4313 tests are negative, 623 are pending and 9 are positive. 3 specimens were rejected by a private lab. YKHC has tested individuals in more than 32 communities in our service area, including Bethel.

- While 12 positive COVID cases have been identified in Bethel and the YK Delta, 3 of these 12 cases are non-residents. Therefore, per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 9.
- Beginning Wednesday, July 1, every Wednesday from noon-4:00 p.m. YKHC will offer free COVID-19 testing without appointment at the drive-thru testing site in Bethel. Testing at this site continues to be available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, but by appointment only. Individuals concerned with coronavirus-related symptoms can call 543-6949 to be assisted. Testing continues to be available at YKHC village clinics. Customers simply need to call the clinic to be assisted.
- All new positive COVID-19 cases identified and known in Bethel and the YK Delta are reported on YKHC’s website at: https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/news/

Situation Report

- On June 25, YKHC, the Napaskiak Tribal Council and the City of Napaskiak released a joint statement that there is a strong likelihood sporadic community spread of COVID-19 may be occurring in the village of Napaskiak. The community has implemented a shelter-in-place order through July 5 and made masks mandatory in public places, where physical distance is hard to maintain. More information available here: https://www.ykhc.org/joint-release-possible-community-spread-in-napaskiak/
- The next bi-weekly Tribal call hosted by YKHC, to offer service area Tribes an update on COVID-19 planning and response, is scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. Tribes can register for the call here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3015857737171/WN_qtvGYIInRGqS3ulp9tDndg
- Late on June 22, YKHC was informed a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19 while elsewhere in Alaska. Contact tracing reveals the individual was out-of-region during the period of time they would have been exposed to and infectious for COVID-19, but per State reporting protocols will be counted as a Bethel case. More here: https://www.ykhc.org/yk-delta-resident-tests-positive-for-covid-19-outside-region/
- On June 24, YKHC confirmed a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing indicates the individual who tested positive traveled to a YK Delta service area village during the period of time they may have been infections with the virus. YKHC recommended the community implement mandatory masking in public and a shelter-in-place order through July 5. More information on this case is available here: https://www.ykhc.org/june-24-positive/
- On June 25, YKHC was notified an individual tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage and subsequently traveled to Bethel. The individual was not notified about the positive test result until after travel occurred. The individual is not a resident of Bethel, and therefore per State reporting protocols, will not be counted in the YK Delta positive case count. More information on the additional case here: https://www.ykhc.org/known-positive-in-bethel-on-june-25/
- In the evening of June 25, YKHC was notified an individual who resides in Bethel tested positive for COVID-19 while in Anchorage. The individual was tested at ANMC in accordance with their routine screening. While the individual has been out of region during the time they would have been considered infectious, per State reporting protocols, the positive case will be counted as a YK Delta case on June 26. Local response for contact tracing and follow-up testing is being managed in Anchorage. More information on the case available here: https://www.ykhc.org/one-new-covid-19-case-identified-in-bethel-on-june-26/

Resources

- YKHC COVID-19 page: www.ykhc.org/covid-19

Contact

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YKHC Incident Command Center, (907) 543-6275. Currently staffed Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.