

# COVID-19

## Situational Report

**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 3 p.m. August 21, YKHC has performed 15,121 tests — 12,831 are negative and about 245 are pending. Three specimens were rejected by a private lab. YKHC has tested individuals in more than 32 communities in our service area, including Bethel.

- YKHC has confirmed or identified a total of 61 positive COVID-19 cases in Bethel and the YK Delta. 15 of the 61 cases were residents tested out-of-region, but per State reporting protocols, will be counted as YK Delta cases. 14 of these 61 total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 47.
- Every Wednesday from noon-4:00 p.m. YKHC offers 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 from 2:00-4:00 p.m., but by appointment only. Individuals concerned with COVID-19-related symptoms should call their local village clinic, or in Bethel call 543-6949, to be assisted.
- All new positive COVID-19 cases identified and known in the YK Delta are reported on YKHC's website at: <https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/news/>

### Recoveries

- Cases are considered recovered either through serial testing or time.
  - For serial testing, if an individual has been symptomatic, they must receive 2 negative PCR tests more than 24 hours apart after symptoms resolve to be cleared. If they are asymptomatic, they must receive a negative PCR test after the initial test.
  - For time, an individual who has been symptomatic is considered recovered when 10 days have elapsed from when symptoms began, symptoms show improvement, and an additional 3 days have elapsed since their last fever. If asymptomatic, an individual is considered recovered 10 days from their last test.
- Of the total 61 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing for 51 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Delta

residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 45 of these 61 cases are considered recovered, with 14 remaining active and 2 deceased. 15 of these cases were either identified out-of-region or were not infectious while here.

- **Correction:** In the Situation Reports on July 31, August 7, and August 14, YKHC inaccurately reported one additional “recovery” that should have been counted as “deceased.” That data correction has been made and will be reflected in all future Situation Reports.

### Situation Report

- On August 16, YKHC confirmed two new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Case 1:** Late in the day on August 15, YKHC confirmed an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from. Contact tracing indicates this is a travel-related case.
  - **Case 2:** On August 16, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a YKHC service area village resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from.
  - More on both cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/two-new-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-aug16/>
- On August 17, YKHC identified three new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Cases 1:** Late in the day on August 16, YKHC was notified that a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage. While the individual has been out of region for several weeks, per State reporting protocols, the positive case will be counted as a YK Delta case. Contact tracing reveals the individual was not in the YK Delta during the period of time they would have been exposed to or considered infectious for COVID-19.
  - **Case 2:** On August 17, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village. The case was identified through testing of inbound

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### Situation Report (continued)

passengers at the Bethel airport. The individual subsequently returned to their home community, but was not notified about the positive result until after travel occurred. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from.

- **Case 3:** On August 17, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport. The individual is currently self-isolating and YKHC is working with the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology to conduct contact tracing, follow-up testing, and ensure precautions are taken to protect people the individual may have been in close contact with. All close contacts will be provided instructions for follow-up testing, and advised on precautions to take.
  - More on the three cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/three-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-august17/>
- Late in the day on August 17, YKHC confirmed one new COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident. The case announced here is a close contact of a previously known COVID-19 case. The individual is currently self-isolating and YKHC is working with the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology to conduct contact tracing, follow-up testing, and ensure precautions are taken to protect people the individual may have been in close contact with. All close contacts have been identified and provided instructions for follow-up testing, and advised on precautions to take.
  - More on the the case case here: <https://www.ykhc.org/one->

### [new-covid19-case-bethel-august18/](#)

- It is with deep sadness that YKHC reports that late in the day on August 19, a YK Delta resident in their 50's died due to complications of COVID-19. The death occurred at the Bethel hospital and the individual was previously known to have tested positive for COVID-19. The next of kin have been notified.
- More here: <https://www.ykhc.org/one-covid19-death-in-ykdelta-aug20/>

### Resources

- YKHC COVID-19 page: [www.ykhc.org/covid-19](http://www.ykhc.org/covid-19)
- State of Alaska COVID-19 page: [covid19.alaska.gov/](http://covid19.alaska.gov/)
- CDC COVID-19 page: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)

### Contact

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YKHC Incident Command, 907-543-6275. Currently staffed Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.