

# 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 10 a.m. August 28, YKHC has performed 15,182 tests — 14,071 are negative and about 1,051 are pending. Three specimens were rejected by a private lab. YKHC has tested individuals in 33 communities in our service area, including Bethel.

- YKHC has confirmed or identified a total of 81 positive COVID-19 cases in Bethel and the YK Delta. 15 of the 81 cases were residents tested out-of-region, but per State reporting protocols, will be counted as YK Delta cases. 15 of these 81 total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 66.
- 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 81 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing for 63 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Del-

ta residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 57 of these 66 cases are considered recovered, with 22 remaining active and 2 deceased. 15 of these cases were either identified out-of-region or were not infectious while here.

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- On August 21, YKHC was informed that an individual who resides in Bethel tested positive for COVID-19 while elsewhere in Alaska. More on the case here: <https://www.ykhc.org/one-covid19-case-bethel-august21/>
- On August 22, YKHC confirmed six new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Case 1:** Late in the day on August 21, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident. The individual is a close contact of a previously known COVID-19 case.
  - **Case 2:** Late in the day on August 21, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case in Bethel of an individual tested in accordance with Health Mandate 18. The individual is not a resident of the YK Delta and, per State reporting protocols, will not be counted in the YK Delta positive case count.
  - **Cases 3, 4, 5, and 6:** On August 22, YKHC confirmed four individuals who reside 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 individuals are from. All individuals were close contacts of previously known COVID-19 cases.
  - More on the six cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/six-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-aug22/>
- On August 23, YKHC identified eleven new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Cases 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8:** Late in the day on August 22, YKHC confirmed eight individuals who reside 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 individuals are from. All individuals were close contacts of previously known COVID-19 cases.
  - **Case 9:** Late in the day on August 22, YKHC confirmed a

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### Situation Report (continued)

positive COVID-19 case of an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village. The case was identified through airport testing of inbound passengers arriving to the region. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from.

- **Case 10:** Late in the day on August 22, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident who was tested in accordance with Health Mandate 18. All close contacts have been identified and provided instructions for follow-up testing, and advised on precautions to take.
  - **Case 11:** On August 23, YKHC confirmed a YKHC service area village resident tested positive for COVID-19. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from. The individual was a close contact of a previously known COVID-19 case.
  - More on the eleven cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/eleven-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-on-aug23/>
- On August 25, YKHC convened a meeting with Senator Lyman Hoffman, City of Bethel Mayor Perry Barr, Acting City Manager Lori Strickler, and City Attorney Libby Bakalar. YKHC has long advocated that YK Delta residents and businesses practice several COVID-19 precautions including, universal masking in public, frequent hand washing, physical distancing and mandatory COVID-19 testing of all incoming travelers from out-of-region at the Bethel airport.
  - More on YKHC's efforts here: <https://www.ykhc.org/ykhc-provides-info-to-city-of-bethel-re-covid19-mandates/>
- On August 27, YKHC identified three new COVID-19 cases in Bethel. All cases announced here were close contacts of previously known cases:
  - **Case 1:** Late in the day on August 26, YKHC confirmed a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **Cases 2 and 3:** On August 27, YKHC confirmed two Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19. 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-covid19-cases-in-bethel-aug27/>

### 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/](https://covid19.alaska.gov/)
- CDC COVID-19 page: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](https://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.