

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 2 p.m. September 11, YKHC has performed 17,072 tests — 16,616 are negative and about 331 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 101 positive COVID-19 cases in Bethel and the YK Delta. 15 of these total cases were residents either tested out-of-region or were not infectious while here, but per State reporting protocols, will be counted as YK Delta cases. 16 of these total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 85.
- 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 101 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing

for 84 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Delta residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 83 of these 101 cases are considered recovered, with 16 remaining active and 2 deceased.

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- On September 4, YKHC identified nine new cases of COVID-19 in the YK Delta:
 - **Case 1:** On September 4, 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 2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8:** On September 4, YKHC confirmed seven 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:** On September 4, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident. All close contacts will be provided instructions for follow-up testing, and advised on precautions to take.
 - More on the nine cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/nine-new-covid19-ykdelta-sept4/>
- On September 6, YKHC identified four new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
 - **Case 1 and 2:** Late in the day on September 5, YKHC confirmed two 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 3 and 4:** On September 6, YKHC confirmed two 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

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are from. All individuals were close contacts of previously known COVID-19 cases.

- More on the four cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/four-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-sept6/>
- Late in the day on September 7, 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. The individual is a close contact of a previously known COVID-19 case.
 - More on the case here: <https://www.ykhc.org/one-new-covid19-case-yk-delta-sept8/>
- On September 9, YKHC identified three new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
 - **Case 1:** Late in the day on September 8, 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 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.
 - **Case 2:** Late in the day on September 8, YKHC confirmed a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19. All close contacts will be provided instructions for follow-up testing, and advised on precautions to take.
 - **Case 3:** On September 9, 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 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.
 - More on the three cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/three-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-sept9/>

- YKHC has evidence there is a strong likelihood that sporadic community spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is occurring in Bethel. A joint advisory was issued by YKHC, the Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC), and City of Bethel out of an abundance of caution, to warn the public we believe community spread may be occurring and so individuals can take appropriate measures to reduce exposure to or spread of the virus. The determination of sporadic community spread was made by YKHC on September 5, following two recent COVID-19 cases that cannot be linked to travel at this time. The two case investigations are on-going.
 - More here on the potential community spread: <https://www.ykhc.org/possible-sporadic-community-spread-of-covid19-in-bethel/>

Resources

- YKHC COVID-19 page: www.ykhc.org/covid-19
- State of Alaska COVID-19 page: covid19.alaska.gov/
- CDC COVID-19 page: 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.