

# 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. October 2, YKHC has performed 20,403 tests — 19,786 are negative and about 508 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 154 positive COVID-19 cases in Bethel and the YK Delta. 27 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. 22 of these total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 105.
- 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 154 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing

for 123 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Delta residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 140 of these 154 cases are considered recovered, with 12 remaining active and 2 deceased.

### Situation Report

- On September 26, YKHC identified five new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Case 1:** Late in the day on September 25, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case in Bethel of an individual who tested in accordance with Health Mandate 10.1. The individual is not a resident of Bethel or the YK Delta, and therefore per State reporting protocols, will not be counted in the YK Delta positive case count.
  - **Case 2:** On September 26, YKHC was notified an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19 elsewhere in Alaska.
  - **Cases 3 and 4:** On September 26, YKHC was notified that two individuals who reside in Bethel tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage.
  - **Case 5:** On September 26, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport.
  - More on the five cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/five-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-sept26/>
- On September, YKHC identified three new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Case 1:** Late in the day on September 26, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport.
  - **Case 2:** On September 27, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport.
  - **Case 3:** On September 27, YKHC was notified that an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage and subsequently

# COVID-19

## Situational Report

### Situation Report (continued)

- returned to their service area village. The individual was not notified about the positive test result until after travel occurred.
  - More on the three case here: <https://www.ykhc.org/three-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-sept27/>
- On September 29, YKHC identified five new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Cases 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5**: On September 29, YKHC confirmed five 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. The individuals are all close contacts of a previously known COVID-19 case.
  - More on the five cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/five-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-sept29/>
- On September 30, YKHC confirmed an individual who had recently traveled to a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19 elsewhere in Alaska. The individual is not a resident of the YK Delta and, therefore per State reporting protocols, will not be counted in the YK Delta positive case count. Contact tracing indicates that the individual had been in region during their infectious period.
  - More on the case here: <https://www.ykhc.org/one-new-covid19-case-yk-delta-sept30/>
- On October 1, YKHC emailed a letter to all Tribes in our service area to receive written authorization to disclose the name of communities in public notifications when positive COVID-19 test results affect villages in our service area. The purpose of this is to continue to protect patient privacy, while bringing as much awareness as possible of current community public health risks, encourage community response and prevention, and promote use of protective measures. This same letter will also be mailed to all Tribes in the YKHC service area to ensure timely receipt.

- YKHC invites you to listen to a recording of this week's local government call here: <https://www.ykhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/100220-Local-Government-Call.mp3>

### 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

Tiffany Zulkosky, Vice President of Communications,  
[tiffany\\_zulkosky@ykhc.org](mailto:tiffany_zulkosky@ykhc.org)

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