

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 1 p.m. October 16, YKHC has performed 24,311 tests — 22,754 are negative and about 1,336 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 294 positive COVID-19 cases in Bethel and the YK Delta. 29 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. 28 of these total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 237.
- 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 294 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing

for 264 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Delta residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 199 of these 294 cases are considered recovered, with 93 remaining active and 2 deceased.

Situation Report

- On October 9, YKHC identified twelve new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
 - **Case 1:** Late in the day on October 8, YKHC was notified that an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage.
 - **Case 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9:** On October 9, YKHC confirmed eight Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19. The individuals are all close contacts of previously known COVID-19 cases.
 - **Case 10:** On October 9, YKHC confirmed that a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19
 - **Case 11:** On October 9, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of an individual in Kwethluk. The individual is not a resident of the YK Delta.
 - **Case 12:** On October 9, YKHC confirmed that an individual who resides in Quinhagak tested positive for COVID-19.
 - More on the 12 cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/twelve-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-oct9/>
- On October 10, YKHC identified eight new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
 - **Case 1:** Late in the day on October 9, YKHC confirmed a Bethel resident tested positive for COVID-19.
 - **Case 2, 3, and 4:** On October 10, YKHC confirmed three Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19. The individuals are all close contacts of previously known COVID-19 cases.
 - **Case 7:** On October 10, YKHC was notified that an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage. Contact tracing indicates that the individual was infectious while in region.

COVID-19

Situational Report

Situation Report (continued)

awareness as possible of current community public health risks, encourage community response and prevention, and promote use of protective measures.

- YKHC strongly urges the public to avoid hosting or attending gatherings of any kind during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Because COVID-19 can be spread while an individual is asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, individuals unaware they are infected with the highly-contagious virus can spread it to others easily at gatherings—resulting in what is known as a “super-spreader” event.

Superspreader events are when a single person infects a large number of other people, or when a gathering is linked to a large number of cases. Contact tracing of YK Delta cases indicate people recently exposed to or infected with COVID-19 have continued to participate in several types of gatherings, including but not limited to:

- Birthday parties
- Going away parties
- Community BINGO and pull-tabs
- Baby showers and gender reveal parties
- Throw parties
- Funerals
- Community meetings or gatherings
- Dining in and socializing at restaurants
- In-person religious services
- Small, indoor and outdoor social gatherings of two or more families/friends
- More on YKHC’s urgent Public Health advisory here: <https://www.ykhc.org/oct12-health-advisory-avoid-gatherings/>

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/

- On September 16, the Native Village of Nunapitchuk, City of Nunapitchuk, and YKHC issued a joint statement that community spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, was occurring in Nunapitchuk.

After comprehensive review of data collected during several rounds of community-based testing, YKHC believes there is no longer evidence of COVID-19 community spread in Nunapitchuk at this time. YKHC would like to thank Nunapitchuk’s leadership for implementing community-wide protective measures to help isolate COVID-19 in the village.

- More on Nunapitchuk’s community spread here: <https://www.ykhc.org/evidence-of-community-spread-no-longer-in-nunapitchuk-oct16/>

Contact

Tiffany Zulkosky, Vice President of Communications,
tiffany_zulkosky@ykhc.org

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