

# 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. November 6, YKHC has performed 30,196 tests — 28,488 are negative and about 858 are pending. Three specimens were rejected by a private lab. YKHC has tested individuals in 35 communities in our service area, including Bethel.

- YKHC has confirmed or identified a total of 979 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. 32 of these total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 918.
- Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 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 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 918 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing

for 957 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Delta residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 686 of these 918 cases are considered recovered, with 166 remaining active and 5 deceased.

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- **Due to a significant increase in COVID-19 cases across the region, case investigations are on-going to identify whether cases are travel-related, a result of close contact, or a result of community-based transmission.**
- On October 30, YKHC identified forty new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Third in-region hospitalization:** Early in the morning on October 30, one COVID-19 positive individual was admitted into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital.
  - **2 cases in Aniak:** YKHC confirmed two Aniak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **16 cases in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed 16 Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **7 cases in Chevak:** YKHC confirmed 7 Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Tuluksak:** YKHC confirmed 1 Tuluksak resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in St. Mary's:** YKHC confirmed 1 St. Mary's resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Tununak:** YKHC confirmed 1 Tununak resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **10 cases in a YKHC service area village:** YKHC confirmed 10 residents of a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **2 cases in Toksook Bay:** YKHC confirmed two Toksook Bay residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/forty-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-oct30/>
- On October 31, YKHC identified thirty-four new COVID-19 cases

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in the YK Delta.

- **Fourth in-region hospitalization:** Early in the morning on October 31, one COVID-19 positive individual was admitted into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital
  - **1 case in YKHC service area village:** YKHC confirmed one resident of a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Aniak:** YKHC confirmed one resident of Aniak tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in YKHC service area village:** YKHC confirmed one resident of a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **5 cases in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed 5 Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **21 cases in Chevak:** YKHC confirmed 21 Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Hooper Bay:** YKHC confirmed one Hooper Bay resident tested positive for COVID-19 while in Bethel.
  - **2 cases in Quinhagak:** YKHC confirmed 2 Quinhagak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **2 cases in Toksook Bay:** YKHC confirmed two Toksook Bay residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/thirty-four-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-oct31/>
- On November 1, YKHC identified fifteen new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **14 cases in Chevak:** YKHC confirmed 14 Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in YKHC service area village:** On November 1, YKHC confirmed one resident of a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19.
  - More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/fifteen-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-nov1/>
- On November 2, YKHC reported one new death, two new in-region hospitalizations, and identified nineteen new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **One new death:** It is with profound sadness YKHC reports that late in the day on November 1 a YK Delta resident in their 70s died due to complications of COVID-19. The next of kin have been notified. YKHC sends our deepest condolences to the loved ones mourning the loss of this individual. This is the fifth COVID-19 death associated with the YK Delta region.
  - **Two new in-region hospitalizations:** Late in the day on November 1, two COVID-19 positive individuals were admitted into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital. These are the fifth and sixth individuals hospitalized in-region due to COVID-19 infections.
  - **3 cases in Chevak:** On November 2, YKHC confirmed three Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Napakiak:** YKHC confirmed one Napakiak resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in St. Mary's:** YKHC confirmed one St. Mary's resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **6 cases in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed six Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Kwethluk:** YKHC confirmed one Kwethluk resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **2 cases in Quinhagak:** YKHC confirmed two Quinhagak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **5 cases in Toksook Bay:** YKHC confirmed five Toksook Bay residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/nineteen-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-nov2/>
- On November 3, YKHC identified forty-three new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **1 case in Nunapitchuk:** YKHC confirmed one Nunapitchuk resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **22 cases in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed 22 Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **4 cases in Chevak:** YKHC confirmed four Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **1 case in Quinhagak:** YKHC confirmed one Quinhagak resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **11 cases in Toksook Bay:** YKHC confirmed 11 Toksook Bay residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - **Numerous cases in Napaskiak:** On November 3, YKHC

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confirmed numerous Napaskiak residents tested positive for COVID-19. \*Consent provided by the Native Village of Napaskiak states the total number of cases should not be publicly provided.

- More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/forty-three-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-nov3/>
  - On November 4, YKHC reported one new in-region hospitalizations and identified forty-six new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
    - One new in-region hospitalization:** Late in the day on November 3, one COVID-19 positive individual was admitted into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital. This is the seventh individual hospitalized in-region due to COVID-19.
      - 1 case in Mekoryuk:** YKHC confirmed one Mekoryuk resident tested positive for COVID-19 in Bethel. The individual is currently self-isolating in Bethel.
      - 21 cases in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed 21 Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19.
      - 11 cases in Chevak:** YKHC confirmed 11 Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
      - 6 cases in Quinhagak:** YKHC confirmed six Quinhagak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
      - 7 cases in Toksook Bay:** YKHC confirmed seven Toksook Bay residents tested positive for COVID-19.
      - More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/forty-six-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-nov4/>
    - On November 5, YKHC reported one new in-region hospitalization and identified forty-six new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
      - One new in-region hospitalization:** One COVID-19 positive individual was admitted into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital. This is the eighth individual hospitalized in-region due to COVID-19.
        - 1 case in YKHC service area village:** YKHC confirmed one resident of a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19.
        - 1 case in Chuathbaluk:** YKHC confirmed one Chuathbaluk resident tested positive for COVID-19.
        - New case in Napaskiak:** On November 5, YKHC confirmed a Napaskiak resident tested positive for COVID-19. \*Consent
- provided by the Native Village of Napaskiak states the total number of cases should not be publicly provided.*
  - 16 cases in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed 16 Bethel residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - 1 non-resident case in Bethel:** YKHC confirmed an individual tested positive for COVID-19 in Bethel. 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.
  - 1 case in Pilot Station:** YKHC confirmed one Pilot Station resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - 1 case in Emmonak:** YKHC confirmed one Emmonak resident tested positive for COVID-19.
  - 19 cases in Chevak:** YKHC confirmed 19 Chevak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - 3 cases in Quinhagak:** YKHC confirmed three Quinhagak residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - 2 cases in Toksook Bay:** YKHC confirmed two Toksook Bay residents tested positive for COVID-19.
  - More on the cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/forty-six-new-covid19-cases-yk-delta-nov5/>
- In response to the widespread nature of the COVID-19 pandemic in the YK Delta and the increased risk of community-based transmission throughout the region, YKHC is revising its visitor and escort policy to protect the health and safety of our patients, staff, and the public who access our facilities for services.
  - Read about all revisions here: <https://www.ykhc.org/revised-visitor-escort-policy-and-recommendations-for-community-precautions-nov2/>
- YKHC has evidence that widespread community transmission of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is occurring in the village of Napaskiak. This joint advisory is issued by YKHC and the Native Village of Napaskiak out of an abundance of caution, to warn the public we believe community spread is occurring and so individuals can take appropriate measures to reduce exposure to or spread of the virus.
  - Read more about the evidence of community spread in Napaskiak here: <https://www.ykhc.org/public-alert-urgent-action-needed-to-flatten-curve-oct28/>
- In an effort to avoid lengthy delays for YKHC customers tested for



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COVID-19, YKHC will pay considerable expense to have a private lab, Lab Corp, used to process COVID-19 samples. Processing time through Lab Corp is expected to remain at 5-7 days. We understand the concern many may feel while waiting for lab results and YKHC remains committed to doing all we can to receiving timely results for our customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- More on YKHC's switch to Lab Corp can be found here: <https://www.ykhc.org/ykhc-uses-lab-corp-to-avoid-lab-delays/>
- YKHC has received 4,000 Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 cards from the State of Alaska and will soon incorporate use of them throughout our health system. In addition to extensive, continued use of molecular (PCR) testing processed, Abbott BinaxNOW cards are an antigen test administered by nasal swab by health aides in village clinics without access to rapid molecular (or PCR) tests and provide point of care results.
  - More information on Abbit Binax Now COVID-19 Cards here: <https://www.ykhc.org/ykhc-implements-use-of-abbott-binaxnow-cards-nov5/>
- COVID-19 is spreading quickly, widely, and undetected in Bethel. Don't panic, know your status! YKHC, Orutsararmiut Native Council, and the City of Bethel are sponsoring a mass drive-thru COVID-19 testing event on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the CHSB parking lot (across from the hospital).
  - More here: <https://www.ykhc.org/nov7-covid19-drive-thru-testing-event/>
- Did you miss the Novemeber 5 Tribal Call? Listen to the recording online at: <https://www.ykhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/110520-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/](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.