



CHAP Weekly Update

November 13, 2020

COVID-19 Vaccination



COVID-19 Vaccinations may be in Alaska as soon as the first week of December

What vaccines are likely to be available?

Pfizer vaccine (also called BNT162b2)

- ❖ 2 dose vaccine; doses given 21 days apart
- ❖ Must be shipped and stored at -60° to -80° C (-76° to -112° degrees F)
- ❖ Once removed from dry ice, must be kept cold like varicella vaccine and used within 5 days

Due to limited supply, the first shipment will not be enough to cover all healthcare workers.

Moderna vaccine

This is the next vaccine expected to be approved, perhaps 1 week after Pfizer vaccine.

- ❖ 2 dose vaccine; doses given 28 days apart
- ❖ Stored frozen, less than -20° C (-4° F)
- ❖ Once removed from frozen state, can be in fridge at 2° to 8° C (36° F to 46° F) for 8-14 days

Other vaccines in final trial stages

Novavax (NVX-CoV2373)

- ❖ 2 dose vaccine; doses given 21 days apart

Johnson and Johnson (JNJ-78436735)

- ❖ Single dose vaccine
- ❖ Trials going on in England



Vaccine and Dosing Questions

Will we need a booster dose every year?

It is currently unknown.

Do children need a different dose than adults?

It is currently unknown. Vaccine trials in children are just beginning.

Is there enough vaccine for everyone?

There will not be enough vaccine for everyone in the state to get vaccinated in the first wave, but as more vaccine becomes available, everyone will have an opportunity to be vaccinated.

Who gets the vaccine first?

Guidelines will come from the Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the state of Alaska Allocation Committee. Here's the likely order of vaccination priority:

First Wave: Healthcare and long-term care workers, law enforcement

Second Wave: Healthcare workers not in first wave, residents in long term care, critical infrastructure workers, people at increased risk for severe disease

Third wave: Everyone who wants to be immunized

How do we get the vaccine in our village?

Your Tribal Health Organization is making plans for distribution.

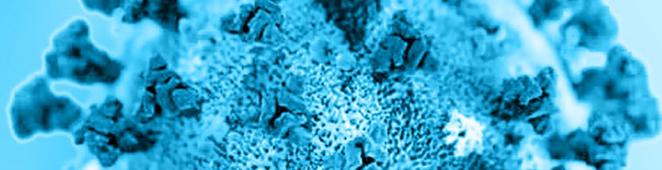


Thank you to the Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services Coronavirus Response Team who participate in the call and brought us COVID-19 vaccination education.



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Let us know what you think! aka-CHAPCOVID-19weeklyupdates@anthc.org
Send questions for presenters and each other, and suggest topics for discussion.



“Resilience and innovation will get us through this. Use all your resources.”

- Anne Zink, Chief Medical officer, State of Alaska

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Vaccine Development and Safety

All vaccines go through clinical trials before they are available for general use.

Phase 1 – This phase determines if the vaccine is safe and if it triggers an immune response in healthy humans.

Phase 2 – This trial includes larger groups of people, many who are likely to get the disease; it further determines effectiveness.

Phase 3 – This trial of thousands of people further examines safety and effectiveness.

Final Phase – The vaccine is now in general use. Side effects and adverse events are still reported and tracked.

Most side effects and adverse effects occur during the first two months after a vaccine is administered. Therefore the trials for the COVID-19 vaccine require a 2-month waiting period after the last dose is given before any reports of safety and effectiveness can be written.

The COVID-19 vaccines have been on a fast track due to unprecedented cooperation around the world from scientists and laboratories. They have dropped everything else to focus on vaccines and treatment for COVID-19. No steps of safety are being skipped.

Sometimes clinical trials are paused after a bad event. This is normal. Scientists evaluate the event and determine if it is vaccine related or not. The scientific community is sharing data about what works, what doesn't work, what is safe, and where side effects have been seen.

- ❖ [CDC Vaccine Safety website](#)
- ❖ [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services vaccine website](#)

Why is this corona virus worse than the others?

Any new virus tends to be more virulent and cause more disease when it first appears, since humans have no immunity to it. Over time, viruses mellow and change, causing fewer deaths. A “successful” virus doesn't kill the host; if it did, the virus would die out. This corona virus may change too, but right now, our best hope is to develop vaccines, treatments and practice social distancing and hand washing.

Every winter there are about 4 corona viruses that infect people around the world. They cause 30-40% of all colds and upper respiratory infections. These viruses have been in the human population for a long time. Perhaps they were lethal when they first appeared, but now they are mostly inconvenient.

Most common corona viruses cause problems in the upper airway. SARS-COV2 causes problems in the lungs and in the circulatory system. These problems contribute to the seriousness of the disease.

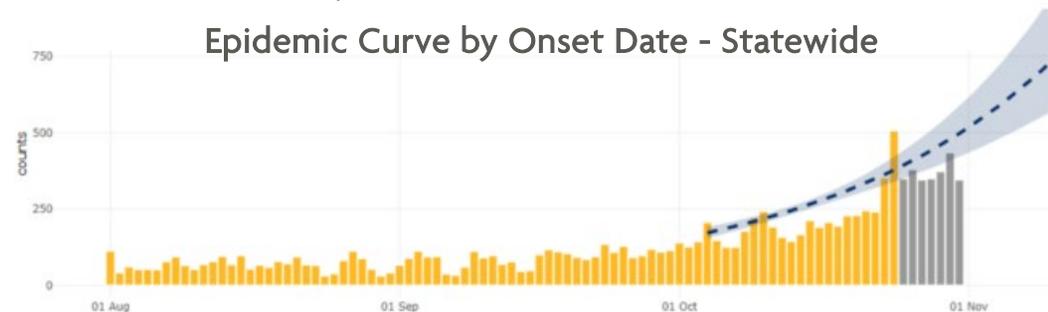
Update on cases in Alaska (as of 11/10/20)

19,712 Total cases in Alaska
64.9 cases/100,000 people

13,108 Active cases

Two weeks ago when this graph was made, the rate was **45** cases/100,000 people; *Social distancing, face masks, and hand washing are more important than ever to slow the epidemic.*

Epidemic Curve by Onset Date - Statewide



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Fast Fact:

What if there is no separate room and bathroom for isolation? Wearing a mask in the home reduces spread of COVID-19 among family members by 70-80%. Transmission is further decreased when mask wearing is combined with frequent hand washing and sanitizing surfaces.



Places to get more information about COVID-19

State web site for Corona Virus – lots of great information here:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>



ECHOs of interest:

- Science ECHO Wednesdays COVID-19
For the general public, Wednesdays, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm
- Situation report Healthcare Specific COVID-19 ECHO
Situational Awareness, Thursdays, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm
- COVID-19 Vaccine ECHO
Every Thursday at 2 pm

List of all ECHOs available:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/echo.aspx>

Rural Medical Providers Blackboard Meeting:

Fridays at noon. Topics include both COVID related and general medicine.

Contact rgtubon@anthc.org for list of topics. Blackboard link here:

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/e11731cc6a034ac58700464446ccdca1>

COVID-19 Testing

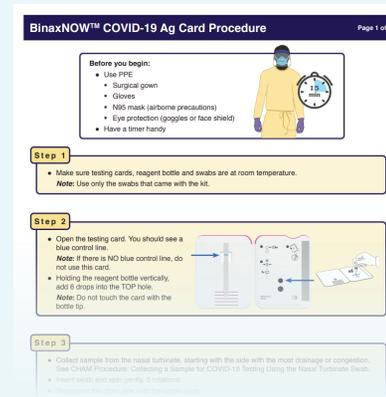
Is your region getting BinaxNOW™ Antigen cards for rapid COVID-19 testing? New CE and procedure instructions have been developed for you and are available here:

BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card Procedure

https://anthc.remote-learner.net/anthcfiles/COVID-19/BinaxNOW_Procedure.pdf

New BinaxNOW™ Testing CE course

<https://anthc.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=885>



Alaskans Standing Together, 6FT Apart

Save the Date



Next session: November 17, 2020

Join the fourth session with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Coronavirus Response Team as they discuss COVID-19 treatments and home care. Email your questions in advance or bring them with you.



Have other ideas for promoting influenza vaccination? [Share them on Facebook \(CHAP Facebook\)!](#)

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