



Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

NEWS RELEASE # 006

For immediate release: 07/10/2020, 11:00 p.m.

Valdez, AK – The community of Valdez received confirmation of 11 additional non-resident cases of COVID-19 late Friday.

All of the new non-resident cases are adults and were identified as part of routine employer screening. Nine are asymptomatic. Two have mild symptoms. All are in isolation following the guidance of public health officials and receiving follow-up care from an onsite company medical provider.

“While the number of cases identified is concerning, the systems put in place to protect the company’s workforce and the Valdez community are working,” said Dr. John Cullen, physician at Valdez Medical Clinic, LLC. “Early identification and isolation is the key to preventing further spread.”

The contact investigation for these cases is ongoing. Preliminary investigation indicates all 11 patients, employees of Silver Bay Seafoods, remained in quarantine on campus with no contact with the community during their time in Valdez. Public health officials believe the current risk to the community for these cases is low.

“All eleven cases are part of the same travel cohort, arrived in Valdez at the same time, and remained in quarantine with required social distancing measures and usage of proper protective equipment,” said Richard Franks, Silver Bay Seafoods Valdez plant manager. “We appreciate Providence Valdez Medical Center for supervising employee COVID-19 testing, local public health officials for providing rapid response and guidance for our workforce, and members of the Valdez Unified Command for open communication and operational coordination.”

As a community, Valdez must continue making thoughtful and careful decisions as long as COVID-19 remains present in Alaska and beyond. Taking small, individual actions like hand hygiene, physical distancing, wearing a cloth face covering around others, avoiding large group gatherings, and staying home when you are sick all make a big impact towards keeping our community safe.

Please continue to monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms which include a fever, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, and any new onset of illness. If you believe you have even mild symptoms, contact your healthcare provider for screening and closely follow their instructions. Remember to call ahead before you go to the doctor’s office, public health clinic, or hospital. The local medical team will continue to provide the best possible care for you and our community.

Asymptomatic testing is currently available in Valdez for select high risk populations. Visit www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19 for additional information and to learn more about different local testing options.

The Valdez Unified Command and public health officials continue to closely monitor the rapidly changing course of COVID-19. We remain committed to providing information, support, and resources to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Valdez during this unprecedented time.

VALDEZ COVID-19 CASE COUNT					
Last updated 07.10.2020 9:00 p.m.					
	CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
VALDEZ RESIDENT	2	1	1	0	0
NON-RESIDENT	15	14	1	0	0

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