



# Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command

## NEWS RELEASE # 074 Valdez Weekly Summary

For immediate release: 04/30/2021, 9:00 p.m.

**Valdez, AK** – Valdez COVID-19 Unified Command provides the following local weekly summary covering developments over the last seven days.

### Valdez Case Count Updates & Trends

Between Apr. 23 and Apr. 29, the community of Valdez received notification of three new resident cases and zero new non-resident case of COVID-19. Two of the new resident cases are adults with symptoms. The third new case is an asymptomatic adult. All three are close contacts of other recent cases. As of midnight on Apr. 29, Valdez has four active resident cases and one active non-resident case.

### Local COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update

Starting in May, vaccine distribution in Valdez will start looking a little different based on current community needs.

Johnson & Johnson Janssen single dose POD clinics are scheduled for May 6 and May 20. To make an appointment for one of these two clinics, visit <http://covidvax.alaska.gov> or call the Valdez Public Health Clinic at 907.835.4612.

Following the Johnson & Johnson POD clinics, large vaccine distribution events at the Civic Center will conclude and transition instead to smaller vaccine distribution clinics coordinated thru the Valdez Public Health Clinic. If you still need your first dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, please call the Valdez Public Health Clinic (907.835.4612) to discuss your situation and arrange your appointment.

Multiple second dose vaccination POD clinics are scheduled at the Valdez Civic Center throughout May.

If you are a business or organization looking to schedule vaccination for your employees or clients/customers, please contact the Valdez Public Health Clinic (907.835.4612) to discuss your situation.

As of Apr. 30, the following cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered in Valdez:

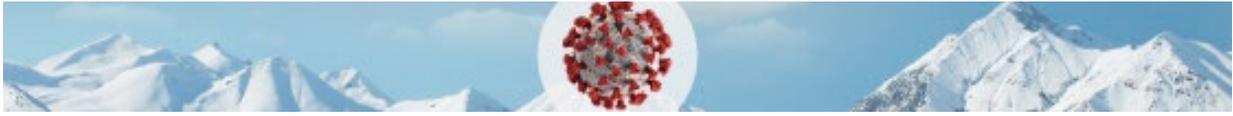
- **Pfizer-BioNTech:** 337 first doses and 321 second doses.
- **Moderna:** 1,384 first doses and 1,154 second doses.
- **Johnson & Johnson Janssen:** 90 single doses
- **Total Number of First Dose Vaccinations Administered:** 1,721
- **Total Number of Vaccination Series Completed (second dose or single dose series):** 1,565

### Local COVID-19 Disaster Declaration & Valdez Health Mandate 003 (Mask Mandate) Expire May 7th

Over the past fourteen months, our community worked together to put processes and infrastructure in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Our public information team rapidly deployed a robust COVID-19 communications program to keep the community educated and informed. Community partners from all corners of Valdez came together to collaborate, share resources, and reduce the impacts of COVID-19 as much as possible. The Valdez Unified Command established an alternate care site to assist with triage and treatment of COVID-19 patients. Thankfully, the alternate care site was not needed and demobilized. Contracts for home oxygen units were established to ensure those with less severe symptoms could be treated in the comfort of their homes. Essentially, Valdez did what Valdez does best...We came together quickly to support and take care of each other.

Valdez now has a robust COVID-19 testing program in place, with both PCR and rapid testing options offered at no cost to the patient. Almost 30 different first, second, or single dose local vaccine POD clinics - staffed almost exclusively by volunteers - were held over the past four months for anyone choosing to vaccinate. Ample supplies of vaccine remain available for those who need a little more time to decide if vaccination is right for them. Our community also now understands the science behind transmission of the virus which causes COVID-19 and how to take personal responsibility to prevent further spread.

While the pandemic is not yet over, Valdez is currently well positioned to transition out of active emergency response. With this in mind, the Local COVID-19 Disaster Declaration and Valdez Health Mandate 003 will automatically expire on May 7. Following expiration of the declaration and mandate, some things will change and other things will remain the same.



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## Following the expiration of Local Public Health Mandate 003 (Mask Mandate) on May 7:

- Wearing masks will continue to be **strongly encouraged** in indoor public or communal settings.
- Local business and organizations will continue to have authority to require that their employees and customers/clients wear a mask in their establishments. Local business and organizations will continue to have the authority to trespass someone for not following their policy on masking.
- Wearing masks will continue to be required by healthcare providers in their facilities and offices.
- Wearing masks will continue to be required by the federal government while on or in Valdez Pioneer Airport property for the near future.
- Valdez City Schools and local childcare facilities will continue to follow mask wearing policies established by their respective governing boards.
- The City of Valdez will publish guidelines for mask wear in City facilities next week.

## Following the expiration of the Local COVID-19 Disaster Declaration on May 7:

- **COVID-19 Response Personnel:** The Valdez Unified Command will demobilize and those individuals staffing incident management roles will return to their routine duties. City staff, our local medical providers, and other community partners will continue to collaborate to keep Valdez safe and healthy.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination:** Free COVID-19 vaccination will remain available in Valdez.
  - The Valdez Public Health Clinic – with support from City staff and community partners - will continue to coordinate vaccination events for residents, visitors, and seasonal workers.
  - While not yet available, other local medical providers and our local pharmacy are exploring the process to order and administer vaccine in small numbers at their facilities.
  - Statewide trends indicate vaccine distribution is likely to shift to clinical and pharmacy settings in the fall or winter.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** COVID-19 testing will remain available in Valdez at no cost to the patient.
  - City supported testing centers at Valdez Medical Clinic and The Alfa Doc will continue thru September.
  - The City supported testing center at Valdez City Schools will continue thru the end of the school year.
  - Providence Valdez Medical Center will also continue to offer testing.
  - The City is working to purchase three additional Abbott testing machines to distribute at no cost to the school district and physician offices, if needed.
  - The City will support onsite testing contracts with our local fish processors from mid-May until September.
  - Statewide trends indicate testing is likely to shift to clinical settings in the fall or winter.
- **Economic Recovery:** City Economic Recovery programs and grants will remain in place. Other financial assistance programs for small businesses, families, and individuals from the state and federal governments will remain available.
- **Events:** COVID-19 mitigation plans will continue to be required for events using City property or resources thru the summer.
- **Communications:** Information related to COVID-19 will shift from the Valdez Unified Command back to normal community communication channels.
  - The Valdez Unified Command website ([www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19](http://www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19)) will be rebranded as the “Community COVID-19 Updates” website and continue to be updated with important local information related to COVID-19.
  - Updates to the local case count dashboard, including notes on transmission sources and trends, will shift from daily reporting to weekly reporting on Fridays. Vaccine dashboard updates will continue to be updated on Fridays. Both weekly dashboard updates will be posted exclusively on the “Community COVID-19 Updates” website.
  - The Valdez Unified Command Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/VUCRG](https://www.facebook.com/VUCRG)) will be inactive starting May 8. Information about vaccine distribution efforts and emergent news related to COVID-19 will shift to the City of Valdez Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CityofValdez](https://www.facebook.com/CityofValdez)). Important information about COVID-19 from our local medical community will shift the Sound Wellness Alliance Network (SWAN) Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/swanalaska](https://www.facebook.com/swanalaska)). Please follow both the City and SWAN pages to continue to receive important updates in your Facebook newsfeed.
  - Informational posters related to testing options, vaccine distribution, and official COVID-19 information sources will remain posted in key locations throughout Valdez.
  - The Valdez Unified Command weekly news release will be discontinued, with the last edition published on May 7.

For the most up-to-date local information related to COVID-19, please continue to monitor the Valdez Unified Command website ([www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19](http://www.valdezak.gov/COVID-19)).

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