



City and Borough of Juneau  
 City & Borough Manager's Office  
 155 South Seward Street  
 Juneau, Alaska 99801  
 Telephone: 586-5240 | Facsimile: 586-5385

DATE: January 14, 2022  
 TO: CBJ Assembly  
 FROM: Robert Barr, Incident Commander  
 RE: **Situational Update –Level 3 Modified High**

Overall Community Risk	Disease Situation	Hospital Capacity	Public Health Capacity
<b>Level 3 - Modified High</b>	The community case load remains high and is increasing. The Omicron variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available.	Local hospital case loads are rising and staffing is constrained due to staff isolation/quarantine. Medevac capacity is starting to become constrained.	Contact tracing is significantly constrained due to the quantity of cases. Approximately half of recent case activity is secondary in nature.

**The Complete CBJ COVID-19 Dashboard can be found [here](#) or by going to [Juneau.org/ COVID-19](https://Juneau.org/COVID-19)**

**Situation Assessment:**

The 14 and 7 day case rates are at the very high alert level. The Omicron variant is the dominant strain, although lab confirmation is pending. The community is urged to take advantage of vaccination, masking, and testing - the three most effective tools we have at combating the pandemic. Masking is required when indoors in public places. Social distancing remains recommended to mitigate disease spread and allow for effective contact tracing. Individuals should test immediately if they have even mild symptoms. **The single most effective strategy to mitigate COVID is to get vaccinated.**

**Issues of Note:**

Case activity continues to ramp upwards, we continue to report case records due to the substantially increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant.

So far to-date we have been relatively fortunate in terms of actual admissions to BRH for COVID-19 related complications. Unfortunately, this hasn't been the case nationwide, and hospitalizations nationwide are currently at a [peak](#). Juneau's higher-than-average vaccination status should continue to serve us well in this regard; however, we did elevate our current hospital status to level 3/high today. There was a point in the day where all med surg and CCU beds were full, and staffing continues to be a major concern. Managers and Directors are regularly working shifts on the floor – there are 26 BRH employees out with illness at the moment, which remains a high.

Monoclonal antibodies continue to be available to individuals early in their disease course who are at the highest risk of COVID-19 hospitalization. We do not expect the [prioritization criteria](#) to expand in the short term. We received good news this week on the therapeutic front – Remdesivir, a commercially available

antiviral medication, has a similar risk-reduction effect as monoclonal antibodies when administered on an [outpatient basis, through IV, 3 days in a row](#). Unlike monoclonal antibodies, Remdesivir is not in short supply and this is a therapeutic we hope to be able to use for more people who are at high risk of hospitalization if they contract COVID-19. Administering this therapy is more time consuming than monoclonals (3 days versus 1); however, it is far less time consuming than an actual COVID-19 related hospitalization.

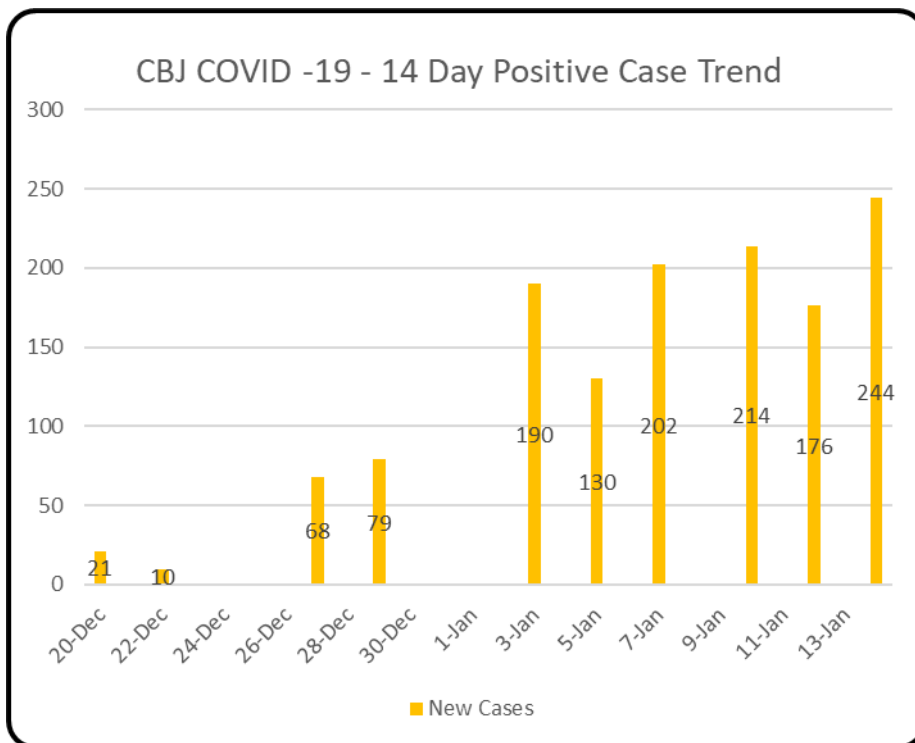
We expect our order of rapid antigen self-tests to arrive by Thursday of next week. We plan to distribute the majority of these directly to the public under the same model used previously. We will also distribute a portion directly to agencies and organizations that serve individuals who are unlikely to be able to access testing through other means.

**General Case Trends:**

Juneau Public Health was not able to report generalized case trends today due to staffing limitations and increased case activity.

**Daily Numbers update:** We are reporting 420 new cases since the last EOC report on January 10<sup>th</sup> (M-F).

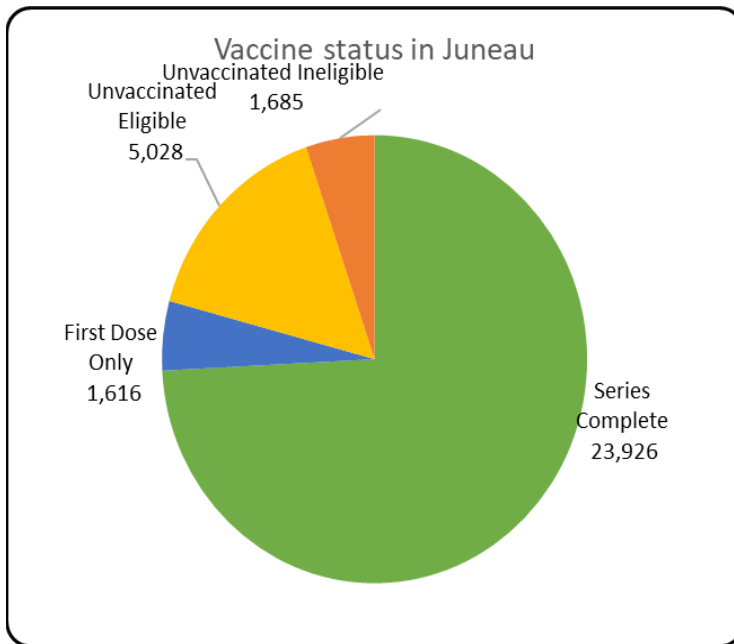
Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports 5,351 new people identified with COVID-19 for data reported 1/12/22-1/13/22. The state reports 2 new deaths. The total number of resident deaths is 955. Alaska has had 172,329 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 6,289 nonresidents.



**Testing Summary:**

PCR testing at BRH continues to return results in under 24 hours, with very few exceptions.

**Vaccination Updates:**



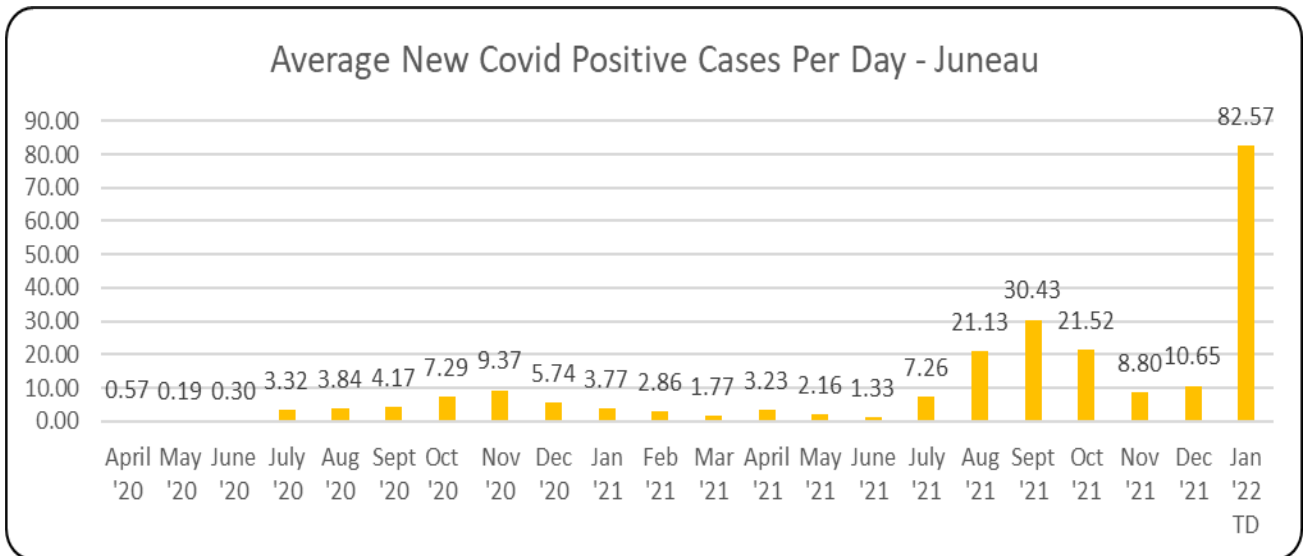
Total: **79.2%** of the total population of Juneau has received at least 1 dose of vaccine and **74.2%** have completed their vaccine series.

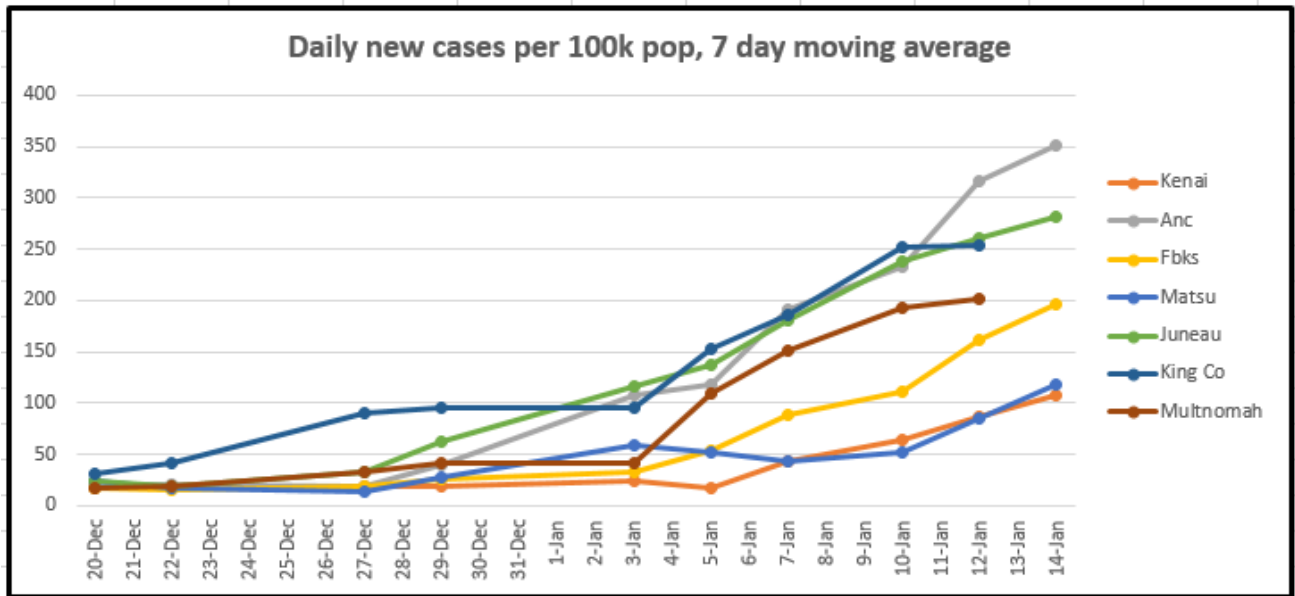
5+: **83.6%** of the age eligible Juneau population has received at least 1 dose of vaccine. **78.3%** have completed their vaccine series.

**38.1%** of those 5+ have received a booster dose.

65+: **96.2%** of this age group has at least one dose of vaccine. **92.1%** have completed the vaccine series.

**71.6%** of those 65+ have received a booster dose.





This chart tracks the number of new cases in the past 7 days, controlled for population. King County (Seattle) and Multnomah County (Portland) are included for context and due to travel frequency. The source data for Alaska is from the SOA dashboard. Out of state data is from the Harvard Global Health Institute (<https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>) and generally lags a day behind most of our other reporting. Policy recommendations at varying levels (<1, <10, <25, 25+) can be found on their website