



City and Borough of Juneau
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DATE: April 20, 2022
 TO: CBJ Assembly
 FROM: Denise Koch, Planning Section Chief
 RE: **Situational Update –Level 1 Minimal**

Overall Community Risk	Disease Situation	Hospital Capacity	Public Health Capacity
Level 1 - Minimal	The community case load has recently been in the 10-20 cases/day range and is stable. The Omicron variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available.	Local hospital case loads are intermittently significant but not with COVID patients. COVID-related staffing shortages have largely resolved.	Statewide contact tracing has effectively ended. Local public health can assist when necessary. Residents are encouraged to self-contact trace upon a positive test.

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:

While case counts remain high as compared to previous phases of the pandemic, we are in a stable part of Omicron-based case activity. A variety of tools are available to the public to mitigation the spread of COVID-19, including high quality masks, easily accessible testing, safe and effective vaccines, and therapeutic drugs to treat those at high risk of severe COVID. **The single most effective strategy to mitigation COVID is to stay up-to-date on vaccinations.**

Issues of Note:

From a numbers perspective, we had an uptick from last week (91 versus 62). Some variation in the weekly case count is to be expected.

Our plans to end the ICS-based structure of the EOC and transition ongoing COVID operations to a normal-course-of-business footing are proceeding as expected. Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) anticipates transition of hotline on May 2nd and testing operations for the general public to start on May 8. During the first week of May, BRH will conduct pre-procedural testing only. During the first week in May, the general public can obtain molecular testing from other providers in town. In addition, there is still ample supply of rapid antigen tests that can be obtained for free from the CBJ cash office, all three public libraries, Public Health, and the Juneau Police Department.

At BRH, COVID treatment is shifting away from monoclonal antibodies (some monoclonal antibodies are not as effective against the dominant omicron variant) to more readily available and effective anti-viral medication.

After a court order struck down the federal mask mandate for transportation, the [Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\)](#) and the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) made the decision to stop enforcement of the mask mandate on the afternoon of April 18. Given the low community risk level and mask optional policy for other municipal facilities, CBJ designated masks as optional at the Juneau International Airport, Capital Transit, and Capital AKCess (paratransit). This afternoon the U.S. Department of Justice appealed the court order that struck down the federal mask mandate. More to come.

Today the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) met. They primarily discussed the recent approval for a second booster for selected people (primarily for people ages 50+ and immunocompromised people 12+). They also mentioned a delay in the approval for a COVID vaccine in children under the age of 5. Approval is now expected no earlier than the end of May or beginning of June.

The State Department of Health and Social Services maintains a good website on [COVID-19 therapeutic options](#).

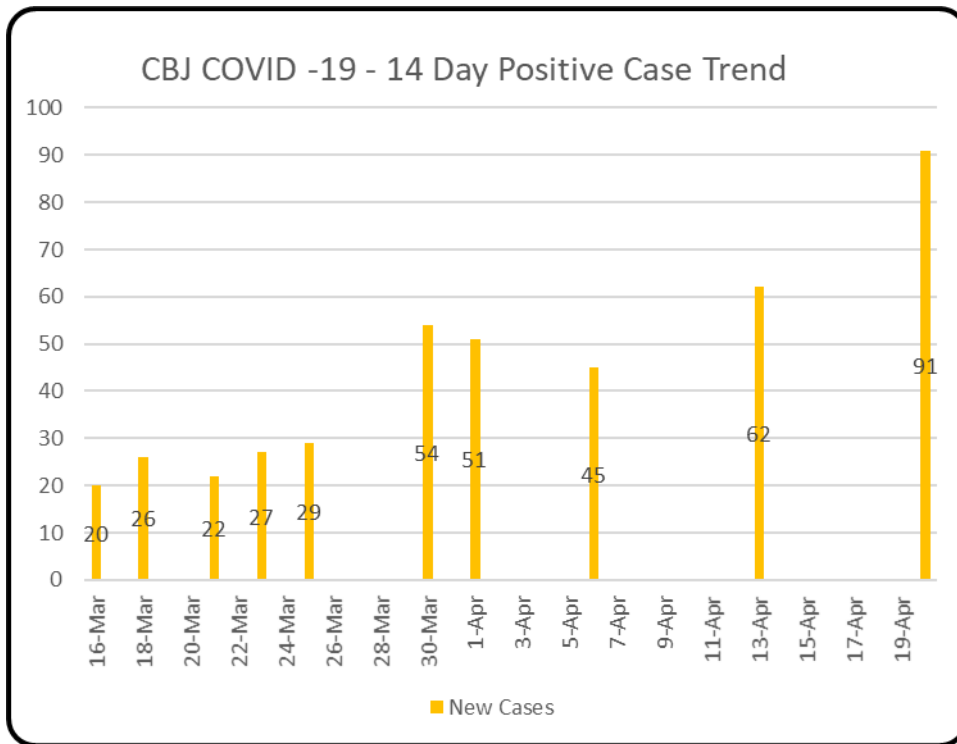
We are awaiting port agreements from the cruise ship lines; they will probably be done early next week. Cruise ship passengers and crew will be largely vaccinated – in most cases approaching 100%

We urge those who contract COVID to reach out to their physician (or lacking a physician, BRH) early in their disease course to determine whether or not therapeutics might be a good choice for them. Therapeutics are more widely available than they were earlier in the pandemic and must be taken early in the course of the disease.

The latest DHSS Weekly Update (includes Vaccine breakthrough data that used to be included in this report) is [available here](#).

Daily Numbers update: We are reporting 91 new cases since the last EOC report on April 13th (7 days).

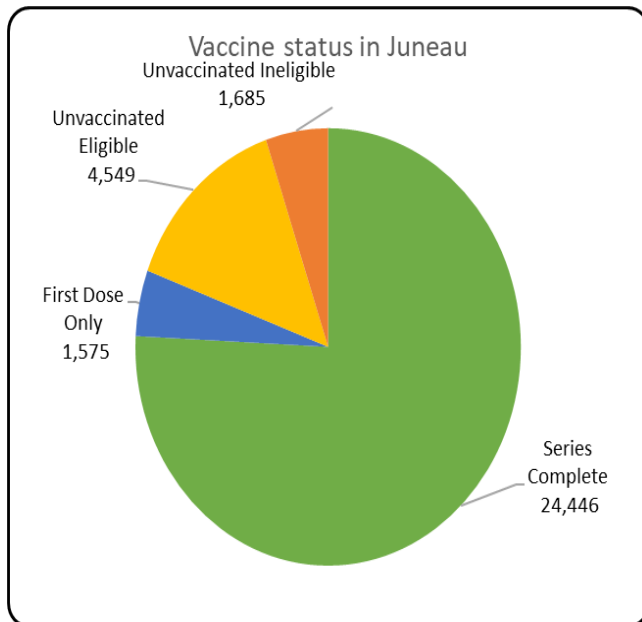
Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services [reports](#) 1,526 new people identified with COVID-19 and unfortunately 13 new deaths for data reported 4/13-4/19. The total number of resident deaths is 1,215. Alaska has had 243,466 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 8,040 nonresidents.



Testing Summary:

PCR testing at BRH continues to return results in under 24 hours, with very few exceptions. Molecular testing is also available through other providers in town, and antigen tests are widely available.

Vaccination Updates:



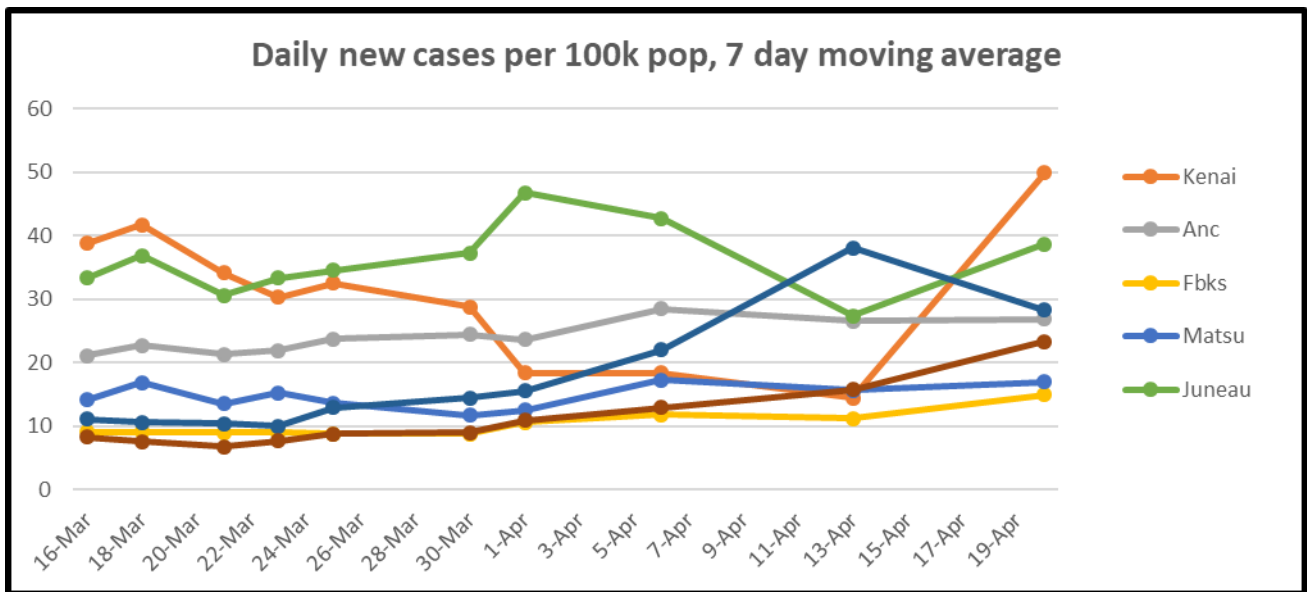
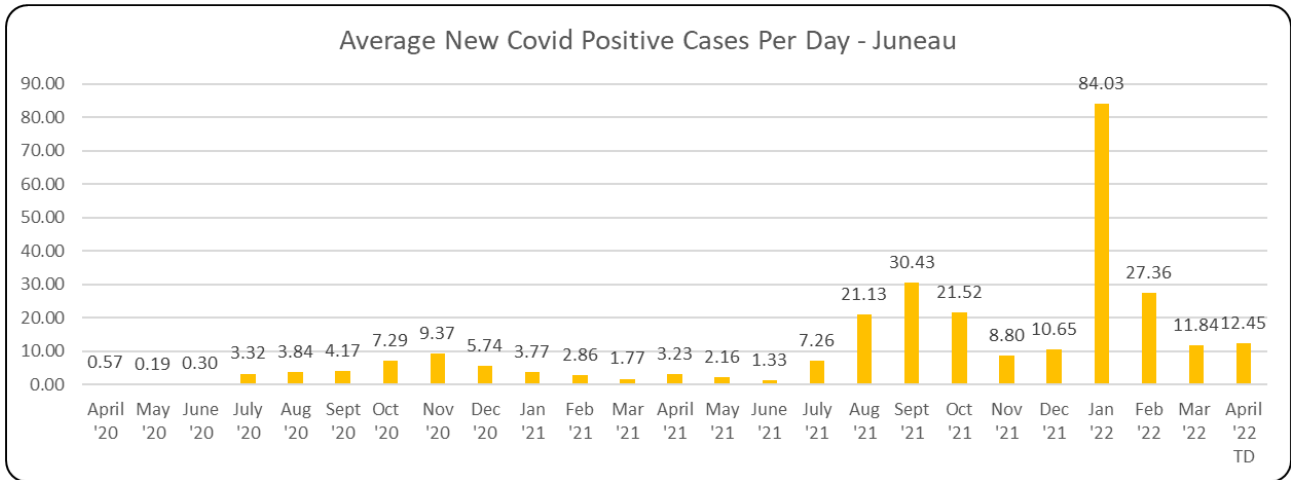
Total: **80.7%** of the total population of Juneau has received at least 1 dose of vaccine and **75.8%** have completed their vaccine series.

5+: **85.1%** of the age eligible Juneau population has received at least 1 dose of vaccine. **80.0%** have completed their vaccine series.

44.6% of those 5+ have received a booster dose.

65+: **97%** of this age group has at least one dose of vaccine. **93%** have completed the vaccine series.

77.1% 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