



City and Borough of Juneau  
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DATE: November 4, 2021  
 TO: CBJ Assembly  
 FROM: Robert Barr, Incident Commander  
 RE: **Situational Update –Level 3 High**

Overall Community Risk	Disease Situation	Hospital Capacity	Public Health Capacity
<b>Level 3 - High</b>	The community is experiencing high case positivity. The Delta variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available.	Local hospital case loads and staffing capacity have mostly stabilized, although there continue to be day-to-day spikes. Hospital capacity within in Alaska and in the Pacific Northwest remains significantly restricted.	Contact tracing remains difficult due to the high number of contacts per positive individual and the inability to get information from some positive individuals.

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 remain elevated at the very high alert level. The Delta variant is driving case transmission locally and statewide. The community is urged to be cautious. Everyone regardless of vaccination status is now required to mask when indoors in public places. It is highly recommended that individuals limit social contact 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:**

The average number of cases per day to date for November is 18.25, and this number is slightly inflated in that it includes data from this weekend that was reported on Monday (11/1). This represents a decline from 30.43 in September, and in 21.52 in October. Our 7-day rolling test positivity rate is at 5%.

While our case rates remain high, we are seeing a sustained decline. We have approximately 112 active cases today, down from the mid to high 100s last week. Only 10 of those cases are in individuals over the age of 60. However, our test positivity rate has been in the 5-6% range all week which is higher than we'd like to see and indicates some case activity that we don't know about.

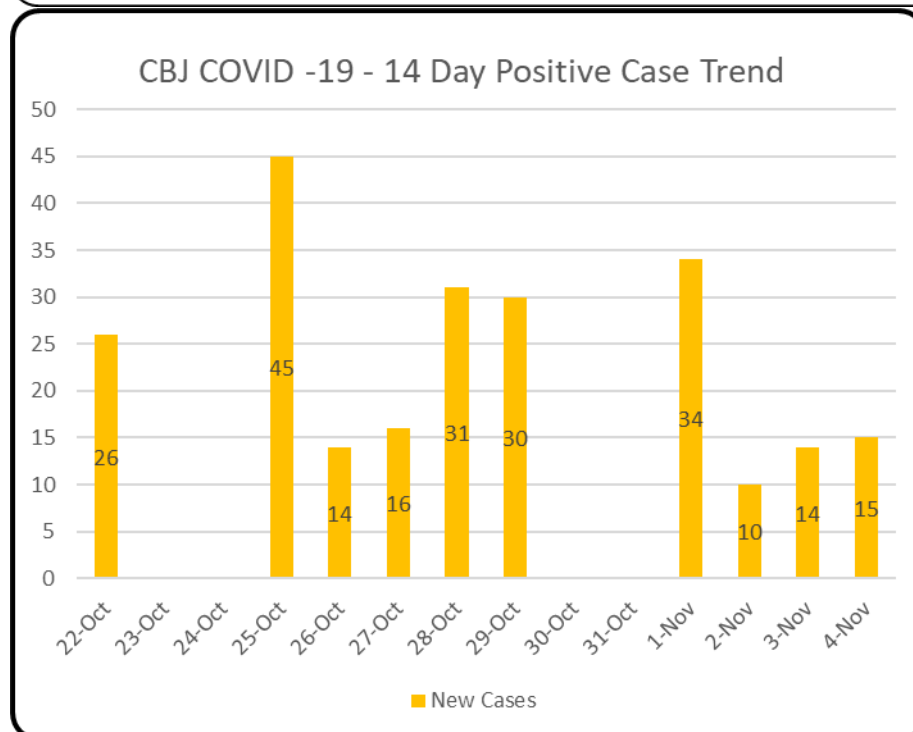
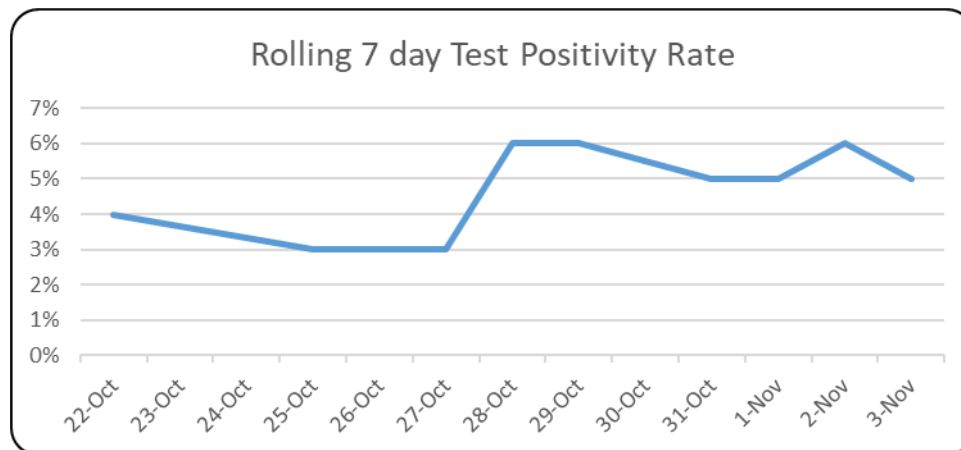
BRH reports stable staffing and a somewhat stable COVID+ case load (2 positives in house today) and somewhat increasing general (non-COVID) caseload. The stability of BRH staffing remains contingent on the contractual work through the State and the State has confirmed that the contractual support will end on 1/22. BRH currently has 10 temporary employees through the State contract. BRH has many open positions with few applications.

Pediatric vaccine clinics commence next week. In the first three hours that appointments were open, 416 appointments were made leaving plenty of room for more sign-ups tomorrow and over the weekend.

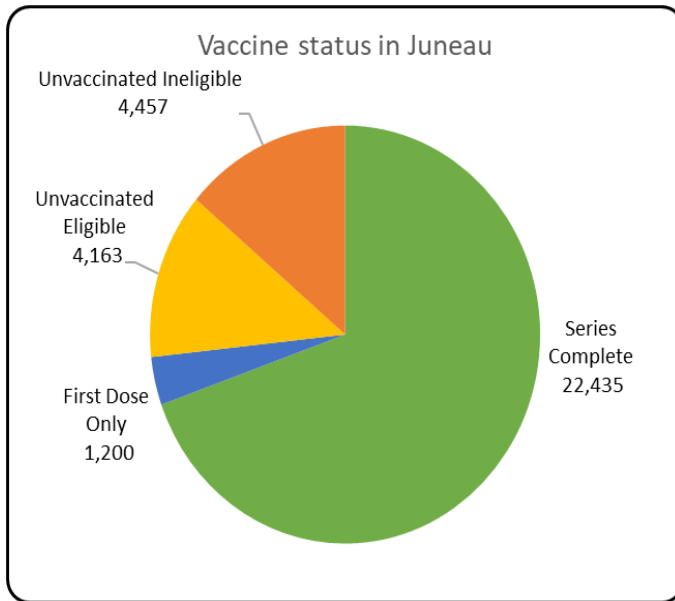
We continue to work on planning for the distribution of rapid antigen tests. We are targeting initial deliveries early next week to organizations that serve individuals who, for numerous reasons, may find drive-through testing challenging or impossible. Pending the consistency and reliability of this supply chain, we continue to plan for broad distribution of these types of tests in the long term.

It is important to note that there is not a reporting mechanism built into rapid antigen, at-home, testing. Public health will be able to do some anecdotal tracking for people who test positive and reach out to them, but positives from antigen tests will not be recorded in the DHSS systems that we currently use. Similarly, negative tests from antigens will also not be recorded which will impact the accuracy of test positivity data. While we will lose some situational awareness, we believe that the benefits of rapid at-home testing – notably the ability of people to immediately isolate when receiving a positive result – will outweigh that loss, especially over the long term as vaccination rates further increase.

**Numbers Report:** We are reporting 36 resident and 3 nonresident new cases since the last EOC report on October 19<sup>th</sup> (T-TH).



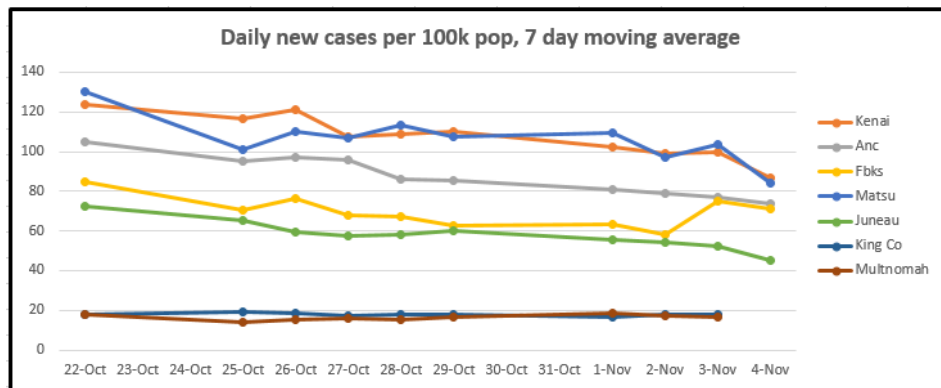
**Vaccine Numbers:**



Total: **73.3%** of the the total population of Juneau has received at least 1 dose of vaccine and **69.6%** have completed their vaccine series.

12+: **85.0%** of the age eligible Juneau population has received at least 1 dose of vaccine. **80.7%** have completed their vaccine series.

65+: **94.9%** of this age group has at least one dose of vaccine. **91.4%** have completed the vaccine series.



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

