



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

DATE: November 22, 2021
 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 | The Complete CBJ COVID-19 Dashboard can be found here or by going to Juneau.org/ COVID-19 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 3 - Modified High | The community case load remains high and is declining. The Delta variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available. | Local hospital case loads and staffing capacity have mostly stabilized, although staffing levels remain dependent on a state contract. Medevac capacity is improving. | Contact tracing is improving with most positive individuals being reached within 24 hours. Approximately half of recent case activity is secondary in nature. | |

Situation Assessment:

The 14 and 7 day case rates remain at the high alert level. The Delta variant remains the dominant variant of concern locally and statewide. The community is urged to take advantage of vaccination, masking, and testing - the three most effective tools we have at combating the pandemic. Everyone regardless of vaccination status is required to mask 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:

The 30 cases that went unreported between 11/9 and 11/16 due to a technical communications error between BRH and DHSS are resolved and were reported on 11/19.

While our supply of rapid antigen at-home tests remains limited, we anticipate beginning distribution to the community broadly no later than during the week of December 6th and potentially as soon as next week. A 1-page informational flyer developed by public health will accompany each test kit to help people understand when to use a test and what to do if they test positive. A copy of the current version of this flyer is included at the end of today's report.

BRH reports stable staffing and stable hospital activity across the board. BRH staff expect hospitals across the state to see increased challenges with staffing when the statewide traveling healthcare worker contract expires on January 22nd.

The approval process for Antiviral medication is set to begin with the first of these drugs (Merck’s) being before an FDA advisory committee on [November 30th](#). Pfizer’s version of this same type of treatment is likely to follow in December. We believe the approval process will be the same as vaccines - 2 steps at the FDA, followed by 2 steps at the CDC.

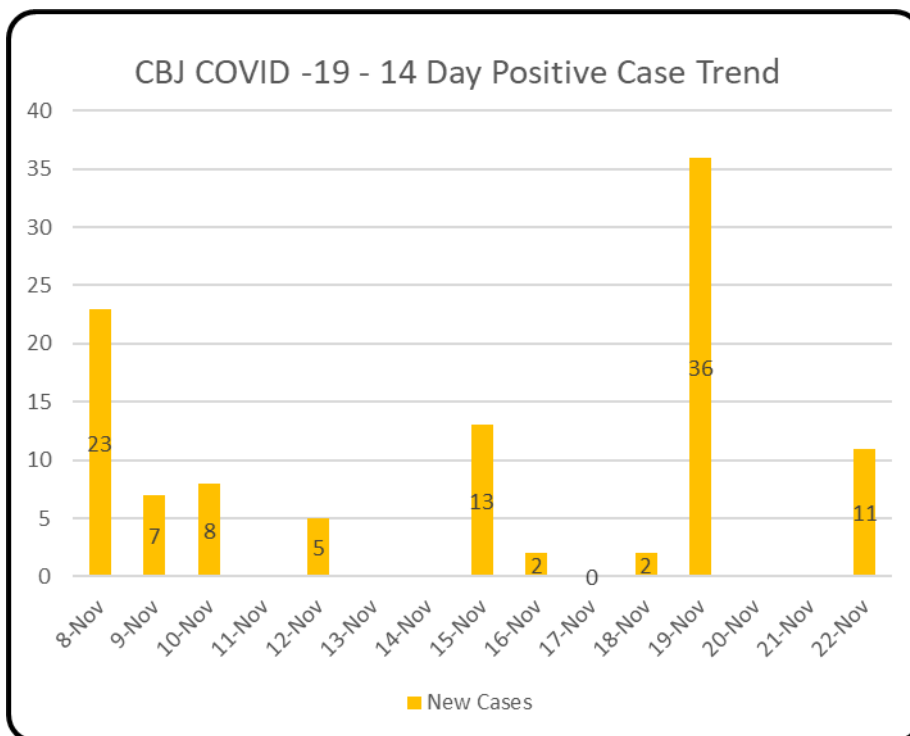
General Case Trends:

Juneau Public Health was able to report generalized case trends for the last 7 days:

- We have roughly 48 active cases
- Of those, about 11 are in minors under 18, and 3 in adults over 60
- The majority of case activity currently is in individuals in their 20s and 30s
- Case activity around us – Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan – is high right now

Daily Numbers update: We are reporting 47 new cases since the last EOC report on November 12th (F-M); 30 of these are cases from 11/9-11/16.

Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports [750](#) new people identified with COVID-19 in the past three days. The state reports 0 new deaths. The total number of resident deaths is 832. Alaska has had 143,454 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 5,371 nonresidents.

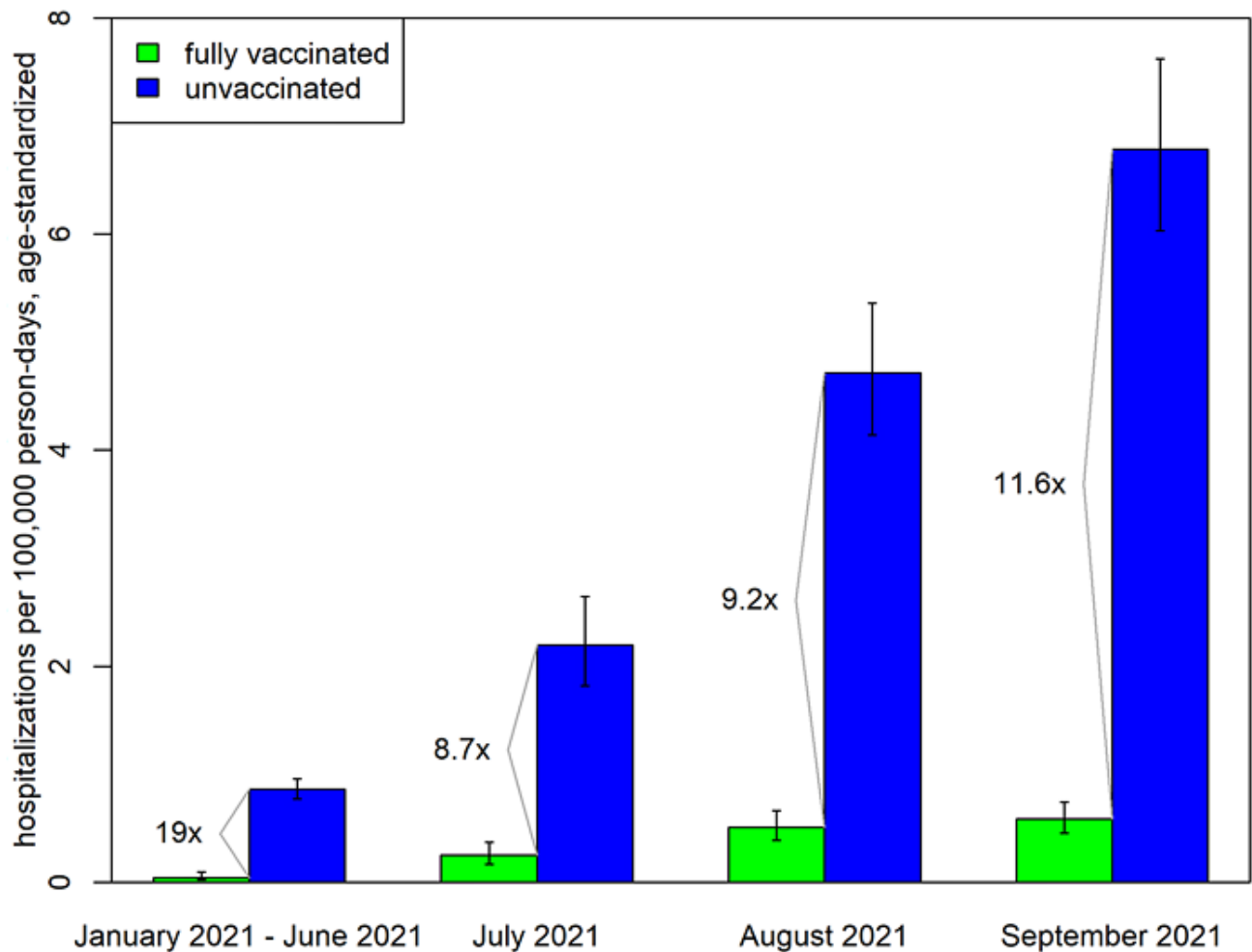


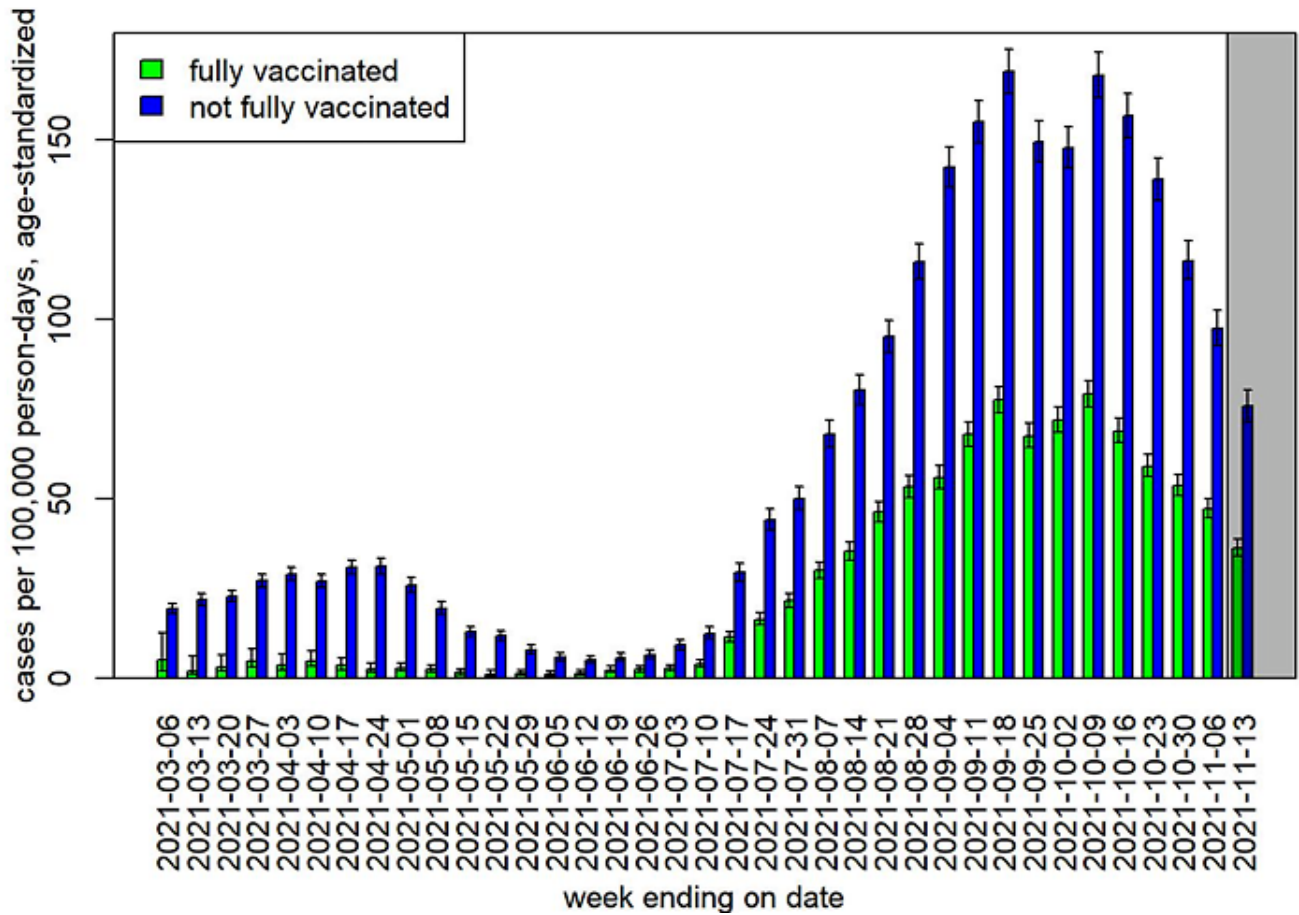
Breakthrough Cases: Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID are those detected in a person who is at least 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series.

From January 16–November 13, 2021, 95 deaths, 274 hospitalizations, and 22,196 cases with a VB infection were reported among Alaska residents aged ≥ 12 years. These counts are provisional and subject to change as data are compiled and reviewed. In that same time frame, a total of 74,916 cases, 1,747 hospitalizations, and 499 deaths were reported.

70% of all cases, 84% of all hospitalizations, and 81% of deaths among Alaska residents aged ≥ 12 years from January 16–November 13, 2021 were in people who were not fully vaccinated.

The Division of Public Health’s [monthly report on COVID-19](#) is worth a read.



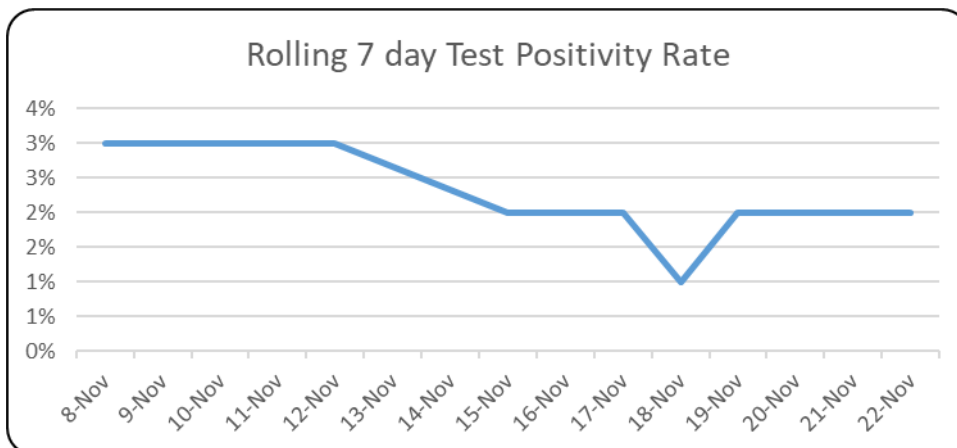


Variants of Concern:

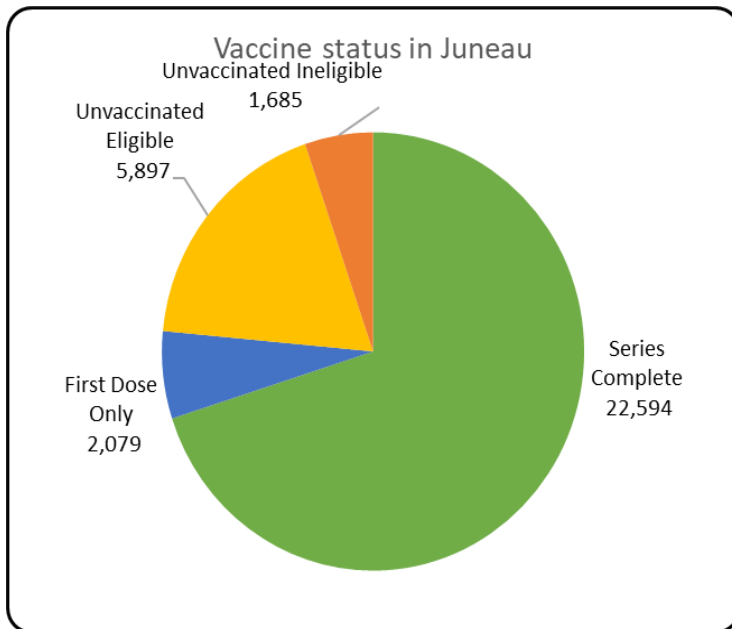
The Delta variant has become the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant in Alaska. This variant transmits more easily than other variants. The State of Alaska variants dashboard is available online: <https://akvariants.github.io/>

Testing Summary:

PCR testing at BRH continues to return results in under 24 hours, with very few exceptions. Testing demand has been slowly declining over the past week.



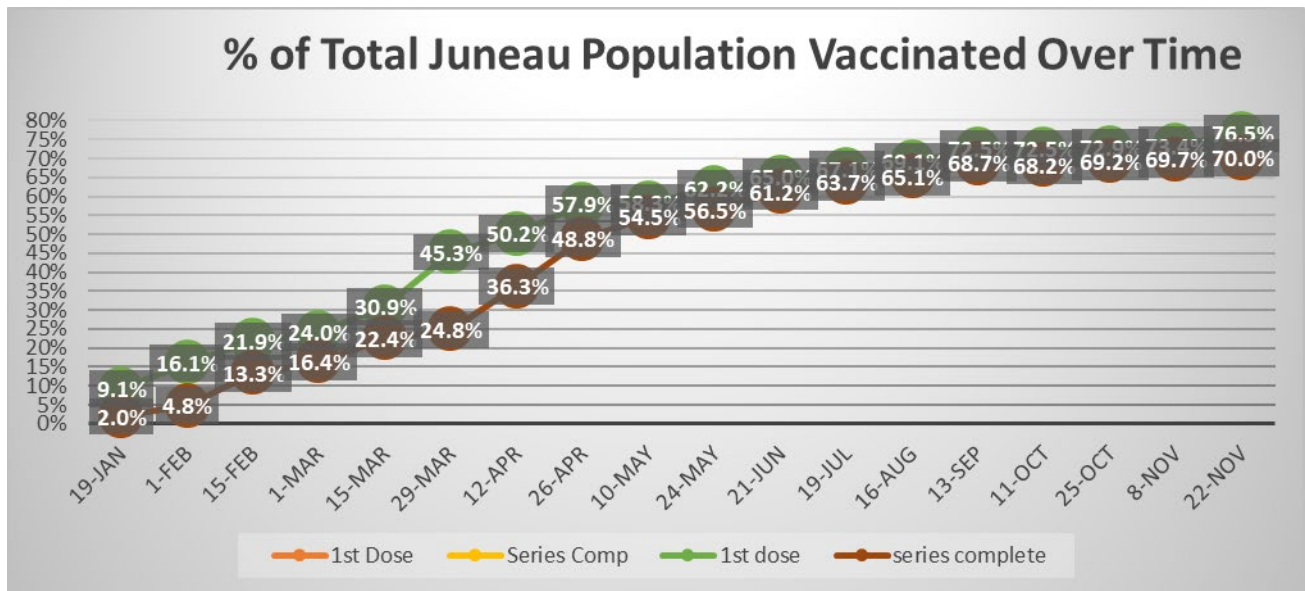
Vaccination Updates:

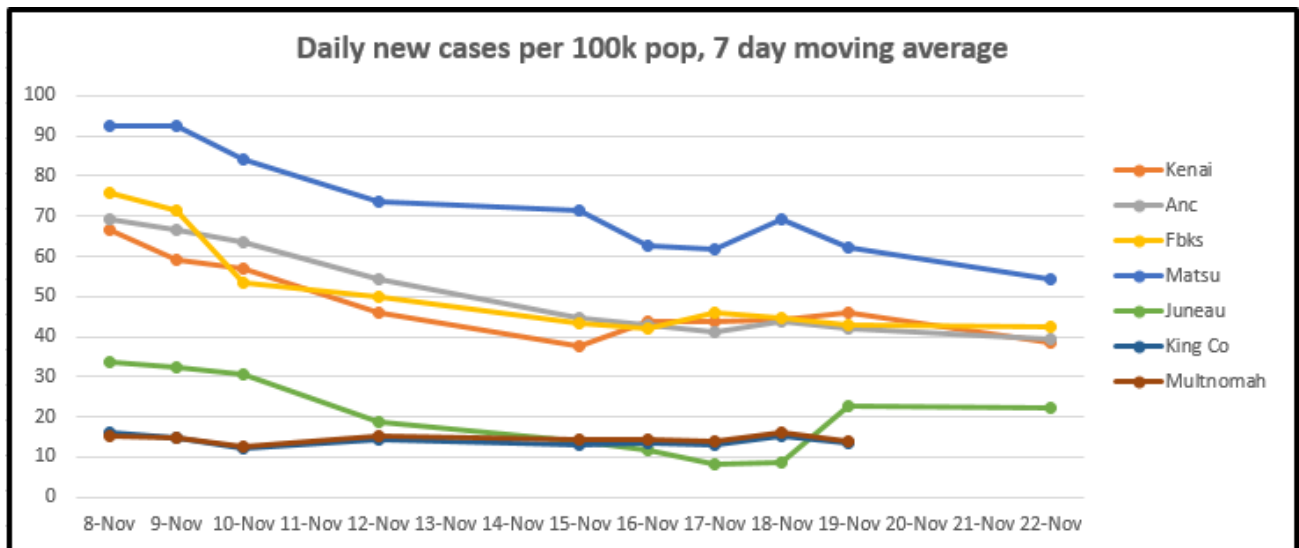
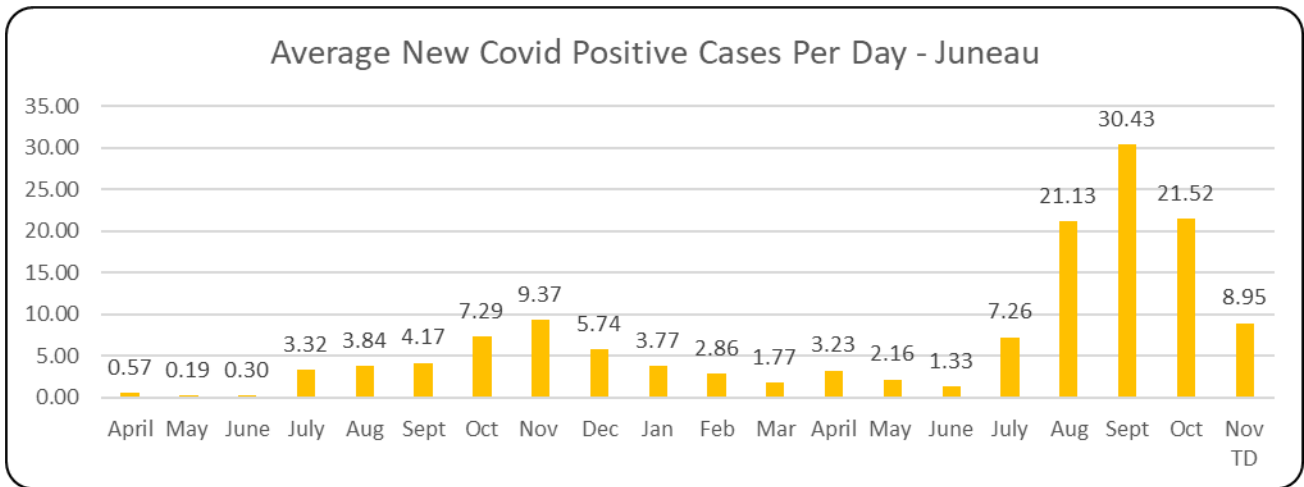


Total: **76.5%** of the total population of Juneau has received at least 1 dose of vaccine and **70.0%** have completed their vaccine series.

5+: **80.7%** of the age eligible Juneau population has received at least 1 dose of vaccine. **73.9%** have completed their vaccine series.

65+: **95%** of this age group has at least one dose of vaccine. **92%** 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

Self-Testing for COVID-19

Testing is critically important to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you have symptoms or have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, you should be tested regardless of your vaccination status.

If you are symptomatic or have had a known exposure, it is preferable that you obtain a PCR nasal swab test (“send-out” test) from your healthcare provider or CBJ’s drive-through testing center (907-586-6000) instead of a self-test, if possible. Alternatively, use this test.

Using a COVID-19 self-test:

Instructions provided in the test kit box should be followed precisely.

- Most test kits come in a pack that contains two test cards.
 - If the first test is negative, you should use the second test 36 hours later.
 - If either one of the test results is positive, you are considered positive for COVID-19 infection and do not need to re-test.
 - If the first test is positive you do not need to do the 2nd test. A subsequent negative test does not overrule the first positive test.
 - If both tests are negative but you have continuing or worsening symptoms that are consistent with COVID you should get a PCR test through the drive-through testing center or your healthcare provider.

If you test positive:

- Please isolate yourself from others for 10 days (regardless of vaccination status or lack of symptoms). This means you should stay in a specific room away from other people and pets. If possible, you should use a separate bathroom. Don’t share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils. You should not go to work, school, church, or gatherings.
- Please notify your close contacts that they should quarantine. A close contact is anyone you’ve been within six feet of for 15 or more cumulative minutes over a 24 hour period.
 - *Fully vaccinated contacts:*
 - Do not need to quarantine unless they become symptomatic
 - Should get a test 5-7 days after exposure regardless of lack of symptoms
 - Should wear a mask around others for 14 days or until their test is negative
 - Should test immediately if symptoms develop
 - *Partially or unvaccinated contacts:*
 - Need to quarantine for one of the below options:
 - 10 days from last exposure (no test required unless they have symptoms), or
 - Quarantine for 7 days, *if* they get a test on Day 5-7 *and* that test is negative
 - Should test immediately if symptoms develop
- Share your positive test results with your healthcare provider to learn about possible treatment options or any other appropriate medical follow-up you might need.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms. If your symptoms become worrisome, contact your healthcare provider. If you experience any emergency symptoms such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, or confusion, call 911.
- Currently, people who test positive on self-tests do not need to report their results to the Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH). DPH is not currently performing contact tracing on self-test results.
- If the test kits were provided to you by a school, workplace, event, or other group or organization, the associated entity might ask you to share your results with them. If so, contact tracing might be initiated by your school, workplace, or organization.

If you have questions about how to isolate or how to notify your contacts, you can call the Juneau Public Health Center at 907-465-3353.