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DATE:	January 7,	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	The Complete CBJ COVID-19 Dashboard
Level 3 - Modified High	The community case load remains high and, recently, has been stable. The Delta variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available.	Local hospital case loads are stable, staffing is constrained due to staff isolation/quarantine. Staffing levels remain additionally dependent on a state contract. 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.	can be found <u>here</u> or by going to Juneau.org/ COVID-19

Situation Assessment:

The 14 and 7 day case rates are at the very high alert level. The Omicron 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. Thankfully, case severity is reduced. We currently have 0 patients hospitalized for COVID-19. There are other areas throughout the country and world with case rates similar to ours that are seeing hospitalizations, including locations with similar vaccination rates. We still appear to be early in our Omicron wave. In addition to hospitalization, the main area of community risk right now are staffing shortages associated with critical workers (across all sectors) being out sick with COVID or quarantining due to close contact scenarios. We are beginning to see medevac delays due to hospitals in Anchorage and Seattle struggling with staffing.

As noted in an information release published on Wednesday, supply of monoclonal antibodies that are effective versus the Omicron variant are sharply constrained. Based on draft recommendations from the

state crisis care committee, we have implemented priority criteria to allocate the remaining doses until supply increases.

While federal allocation of rapid antigen tests to states (and subsequently to local governments) has ended, we successfully placed an order today for approximately 25,000 rapid antigen tests from a vendor in Boston. We expect them to arrive by the end of the month. In addition, we expect federal programs that provide rapid antigen tests directly to individuals to also be online by the end of the month.

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 332 new cases since the last EOC report on January 3rd (M-F).

Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports <u>3,640</u> new people identified with COVID-19 for data reported 1/5/22-1/6/22. The state reports 1 new death. The total number of resident deaths is 948. Alaska has had 159,436 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 5,917 nonresidents.



Testing Summary:

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



Vaccination Updates:





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/keymetrics-for-covid-suppression/) and generally lags a day behind most of our

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