

Press Release

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Fifth COVID-19 Case in Maniilaq Service Area

June 10, 2020 – An individual traveling from Anchorage to a village in the Maniilaq Service Area was determined to be positive for COVID-19 based on a test that was completed in Anchorage. Maniilaq Health Center (MHC) staff were made aware of the Anchorage test result then brought the individual to MHC's Respiratory Clinic in Kotzebue before being placed into quarantine. Two people who were traveling with the individual continued on to the village after receiving a negative test in Kotzebue (their Anchorage test results were unknown to MHC staff at the time of travel). They will be self-quarantined and monitored regularly. More details will be available as contact tracing is completed. For the time being, officials believe the most appropriate containment measures are in place to reduce the risk of exposure both in Kotzebue and the village.

The residents of the village in question will be advised to take all precautionary measures such as **limiting contact with other residents (social distancing), washing your hands frequently, and avoiding large gatherings**. If you must go out wear a cloth face mask and keep a safe distance from others (at least 6 ft).

Maniilaq is in contact with the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology to ensure precautions are taken to protect anyone who may have been in close contact with the individual. Anyone contacted should self-isolate for 14 days and contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 833-442-7015 if any symptoms develop.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as a dry cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice or call Maniilaq's COVID-19 Hotline at 833-442-7015. The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please continue to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for protecting yourself against COVID-19 by practicing social distancing and washing your hands frequently. More information on protecting yourself can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

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Kotzebue Qikiqtaruk, Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliniq, Kobuk Laugviik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Point Hope Tikigaaq, Selawik Akuligaaq, Shungnak Isinnaq