



Press Release

Contact: Kelli Shroyer, Public Communications Director

Cell: 907-412-1204

Email: kelli.shroyer@maniilaq.org

Employee of a Maniilaq Contractor Tests Positive for COVID-19

An individual who is an employee of one of Maniilaq's contractors, has tested positive for COVID-19 after returning from Anchorage. The individual, who had no symptoms associated with COVID-19, followed the protocol developed for employees who go on in-state travel (i.e., received a COVID-19 test upon return to Kotzebue). However, they mistakenly believed their test result was negative and returned to work at Maniilaq Health Center for a brief amount of time (less than 2-hours). Fortunately, the individual wore a mask during that time. Previous to this incident this particular employee exhibited exemplary behavior with regard to COVID-19 protective behaviors (wearing of a mask, social distancing, etc). The individual will be quarantined, monitored for symptoms and retested per Maniilaq's policies & procedures.

Maniilaq has also taken or are taking the following steps to ensure the safety of our patients and employees:

1. The area where the contract-employee works has been *terminally cleaned*. There will be limited access to that area until all appropriate steps have been taken to ensure the reduction of risk of transmission of COVID-19.
2. All persons known or suspected to be in contact with the individual will be tested at the appropriate time and given instructions to mitigate risk per Maniilaq's Return-to-Work Policy & Procedure.
3. Patients and visitors will continue to have limited to no access to MHC (limited access has been in place for several weeks).
4. Although wearing of masks has been a consistent requirement for MHC employees and visitors, enforcement will be increased for the safety of all.

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

For the latest COVID-19 information visit our website at www.maniilaq.org/covid-19

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 256 | KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 | 1.800.478.3312

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