

Maniilaq COVID-19 Report to Tribes and Maniilaq Board



Health Update #2 – April 8, 2020

COVID-19 Cases in Alaska/Region

There are currently 0 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Maniilaq service area. There are 226 positive cases of COVID-19 in Alaska.

Airport Screening at Alaska Airlines

Public Health Nursing is meeting passengers off of Alaska Airlines to work with them on completing a declaration form and to encourage self-isolating for 14 days after returning. They are providing passengers with guidance and instructions on self-isolation, promoting the COVID-19 Hotline, link them to employee health if they are a Maniilaq employee and obtain a passenger count.

Prenatal Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Maniilaq Health Center is beginning to identify expectant mothers throughout the Maniilaq service area in order to ensure adequate care is available for pregnant women including a delivery plan. This is particularly important for women who planned on delivering in Anchorage but may be having second thoughts given the pandemic. If you are pregnant and wanting to discuss your delivery plan, please contact your health aide or Women's Health at MHC.

Increased Testing Capacity Expected

Increased screening capacity is being provided by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Alaska Native Health Service (ANS). Training on new equipment and testing protocols will need to be done before the testing is deployed in the region.

COVID-19 Screening Room in Village Clinics

Extended Facilities is installing barriers in the clinics for designated room to screen possible COVID-19 patients. So far barriers have been installed in Selawik, Noorvik, Buckland, Deering, Shungnak and Kobuk. Ambler clinic will be complete by the end of the day today, April 8th. Remaining clinics will be scheduled to be completed in the coming week.

Website Updates

We have made improvements to our COVID-19 webpage www.maniilaq.org/covid-19 where we will be sharing up to date information on COVID-19 in our region along with statewide updates.

Samaritan's Purse Donation

Maniilaq Health Center received a donation of PPE and hospital beds from Samaritan's Purse. Their generous donation will contribute significantly to our response to COVID-19 in Northwest Alaska as we prepare for a positive case in our region.



Recommendations Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings

- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).
- Make sure the face covering covers both the nose and mouth.
- Do not remove the face covering until you return home.
- When removing the face covering, avoid touching the front of the face covering. Remove it by grasping the ear loops, ties, or bands and immediately discard or place in a designated container for laundering.
- Wash your hands immediately after removing the face covering and before touching anything else.
- Wash face coverings in hot, soapy water between uses.
- **Do not wear N-95 or surgical masks; these are needed by health care workers and first responders.**
- Do not rely on face coverings as the primary way to prevent COVID-19 transmission, and be careful to avoid developing a false sense of security through the use of face coverings. Continue to follow social distancing measures, including maintaining at least six feet between yourself and others, staying at home, avoiding touching your face, and washing your hands frequently.

Cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

There are a number of instructional websites and videos that people can refer to for making face coverings; two such videos are available at <https://youtu.be/VgHrnS6n4iA> and <https://youtu.be/1r2C1zGUHbU>

