

Press Release

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First COVID-19 Case in Maniilaq Service Area

May 19, 2020 – An individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in Kotzebue. The individual was tested on May 19th upon arrival into Kotzebue and immediately self-isolated. 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 if any symptoms develop.

Maniilaq has been offering testing to incoming passengers since April 16, 2020. Not all passengers who arrive into Kotzebue from Anchorage agree to testing. We strongly encourage all incoming passengers to agree to voluntary testing upon arrival.

Maniilaq Association will work closely with local and regional entities to help keep Kotzebue and service area residents informed.

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:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

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