Maniilaq Travels to Maniilaq Service Area Village to Test Close Contacts of 2nd Positive COVID-19 Test

May 25, 2020 – Maniilaq Association reported in a 05/22/20 press release that a second resident from the Maniilaq Service received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid test. As stated, the individual had traveled from one of the villages in the Northwest Arctic Borough to the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) for a medical appointment. The individual was tested by ANMC on 5/20/20 and quarantined after receiving the positive result.

Maniilaq has since learned that the individual was tested a second time at ANMC (on 5/23/20) and that the results of the second test were negative. According to the ANMC Laboratory Medical Director and the Centers for Disease Control, the first test is the most accurate indicator of an individual's COVID-19 status. This means ANMC and Maniilaq are still regarding the individual as positive for COVID-19 for the sake of safety and the prevention of spread of the virus. The individual remains in quarantine by ANMC who will monitor the individual's symptoms closely during the 14-day quarantine period.

On May 22nd and 23rd, 9 Maniilaq staff members traveled to the village where the individual normally resides and carried out COVID-19 testing with a prioritized methodology. The individual's family were asked to come to the clinic and volunteer for a test; also included was anyone in the village who believed they may have been in contact with the individual; and finally anyone else in the village could receive a COVID-19 test after the first 2 groups. Nearly 300 COVID-19 tests were completed. The results of those tests will not be known for up to 72-hours as they have been sent to ANMC for processing.

Maniilaq is grateful for the participation of the village residents where testing took place, and for the staff that went to carry out the testing.

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

Kotzebue Qikiqtagruk, Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliniq, Kobuk Laugviik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Point Hope Tikigaq, Selawik Akuligaq, Shungnak Isinnaq