



Petersburg Medical Center

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 7, 2022
From: Petersburg Medical Center

Active case count: Petersburg Medical Center has experienced increase call volume related to covid. Daily new cases are increasing to 5 or more per day. Home antigen tests are not being included in our total count unless confirmed by PCR, both the school district and PMC have reports of several home antigen tests every day. The State of Alaska has reported over 1500 new cases daily over the past several days, this indicates out of control spread and we must assume Omicron variant is in our community. Most people are able to manage symptoms at home with over-the-counter medications. People who are unvaccinated may have more severe symptoms that would require medical care. If you test positive with a home kit, follow up with your health care provider for guidance as soon as possible.

Community responsibility: Now is the time to take recommendations seriously: Social distance, masking, practice great hygiene, stay home if you're feeling ill, keep your social bubble small, get tested and get vaccinated! Anyone with symptoms should notify employer, test, and stay home. If you are a COVID positive follow the isolation guidelines provided to you by public health, physician or contact tracer. If you are waiting for test results, quarantine until you receive your results. Notify your close contacts so they can quarantine and test to prevent further spread of this virus in our community. ***Isolation and Quarantine guidelines have recently changed.*** For general community recommendations visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

Home antigen testing: Kits are available at Joy Janssen Clinic, Rexall, Public Health, Fire Department, Police Station, Public Library, and PIA. At-home antigen test are a great way to keep your friends and family safe, test before a gathering or Christmas party so you know everyone is COVID free. Home test kits are free, convenient, private and especially useful if you have family and friends arriving from out of town. If you test positive on your home test, don't wait to seek medical care especially if you are considered high risk with other medical conditions. Monoclonal antibodies need to be started early for the best success. A PCR test to confirm your home antigen test will provide the necessary documentation to prevent future need for quarantine.

Testing at PMC: When presenting for a test, masks must be worn, covering nose and mouth. Call the COVID Information Line at 907-772-5788 to schedule a test through the clinic. Travel testing is available:

- **Monday- Saturday, 12:00- 4:00pm, PMC ER**

Additional pop-up testing opportunities will be announced on the PMC Facebook page and KFSK as they become available.

Vaccine: To schedule your first, second, or third dose call PMC (907-772-5788) or Public Health (907-772-4611). All three COVID-19 vaccines including pediatric Pfizer doses are available in Petersburg.

Thank you to you, the Petersburg Community, for testing, distancing, masking, and getting vaccinated. We are better together when we work together!

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