PRESS RELEASE

Date: August 20, 2021
From: Petersburg Medical Center

CASE UPDATE:

Two additional cases of COVID-19 were identified on 8/17 bringing our active case count to five. Of these five cases, one person is a resident of Petersburg, and all cases are linked to travel.

Everyone arriving to town regardless of vaccine status is urged to test on arrival and 7 days after arrival.

Travel testing: Persons arriving in Petersburg from any community are urged to test on arrival and again on day seven. Testing is available by going to the Emergency Department entrance on 2nd street, Monday through Saturday from Noon - 4:00 pm. There is no charge for travel testing and no appointment is necessary.

Persons in the community who associate with people who recently traveled to Petersburg are urged to consider asymptomatic testing 5-7 days after potential exposure, even if they are vaccinated themselves.

Asymptomatic testing: Testing when you don't have symptoms creates an opportunity to find the virus before it spreads to others.   Community testing is available for no charge on August 26 and September 2 from 9:00 am – noon at the respiratory clinic next to public health. No appointment is necessary, minors require parent authorization. Results will be available the same day. Call the COVID Information line for an appointment at another time.

The CDC also recommends testing after attending events where social distancing was difficult to maintain or there was poor air circulation. The ideal time to test after these activities is 5 to 7 days. Monitoring for symptoms is encouraged for 14 days after travel or activities where exposure to COVID-19 could have occurred.

Symptoms: Most people with COVID-19 start out with only one or two symptoms that may feel like a mild cold. People are the most contagious during the first few days of symptoms and can be contagious before they get any symptoms. Some people don't have any symptoms at all and are still contagious. If you notice even mild symptoms, you should get tested. The CDC has a symptom self-checker here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/coronavirus-self-checker.html#

COVID-19 Vaccine: All three vaccines are currently available at PMC for NO CHARGE. Public Health (907-772-4611) offers Pfizer and Rexall Pharmacy (907-772-3265) has a limited supply of Janssen (J&J).

To speak to a nurse, arrange for a test or vaccine, call the COVID Information Line at 907-772-5788.

PUBLIC HEALTH asks you to answer the phone when they call. You will receive a call from Alaska Public Health if you test positive for COVID-19 or identified as a close contact. Contact tracing helps keep our community safe.

OUR FIRST RESPONDERS appreciate the community commitment to test early and isolate early to prevent the spread of COVID. The state hospital bed resources are currently in very short supply creating difficulty locating a receiving hospital for medevac transport. You can help by preventing accidents and injuries: wear bicycle helmets, drive safely, operate equipment like chain saws by wearing safety gear, think ahead to prevent falls, and practice excellent gun safety. Injuries from accidents on top of COVID admissions creates strain for beds, staff and supplies statewide.

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