



Petersburg Medical Center

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: August 29, 2021
From: Petersburg Medical Center

CASE UPDATE:

Active Cases	Resident	Non-Resident	Travel Related	Secondary Exposure	Community Exposure
9	8	1	9	0	0
Date of Positive	Resident	Non-Resident	Travel Related	Secondary Exposure	Community Exposure
8/23/2021	2		2		
8/25/2021	1	1	2		
8/26/2021	1		1		
8/27/2021	2		2		
8/28/2021	2		2		

Alaska has the highest hospitalizations for COVID and increasing at an alarming rate. Travel to another community may place you at high risk for COVID infection. Testing after travel on day zero and again when symptoms develop or on day seven if no symptoms develop will help contain the virus. Infected persons, symptomatic or not, can spread the virus to others. Everyone arriving to town regardless of vaccine status is urged to test. 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. Early testing allows early isolation to prevent others from being exposed. Early testing also gives providers more options to treat at-risk patients with monoclonal antibodies.

Travel testing: 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.

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 September 2 and September 9 from 9:00 am – noon at the respiratory clinic, first floor next to public health. No appointment is necessary, minors require parent authorization. As long as testing supplies are adequate, 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, even if you have been vaccinated. The CDC has a symptom self-checker here:

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



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COVID-19 Vaccine: All three vaccines are currently available at PMC. Public Health (907-772-4611) offers Pfizer and Rexall Pharmacy (907-772-3265) has a limited supply of Janssen (J&J).

Third doses of COVID-19 vaccine are currently available **only** for people who have [significantly compromised immune systems](#), such as those receiving cancer treatments or organ transplants. New data show that a third Moderna or Pfizer vaccine dose helps to increase vaccine effectiveness for this group. Call the COVID Information line to arrange a third dose.

At this time, Public Health does not offer or recommend third doses for other groups. The FDA and CDC's expert panel will be evaluating the effectiveness and safety of a booster shot for other groups, and Public Health expects to receive further guidance in the coming weeks.

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

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 critical 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.

COVID-19 Risk Index

Risk levels for exposure vary based on four main factors:



Enclosed space



Crowds

Density of people + challenges for social distancing



Duration of interaction



Forceful exhalation

Sneezing, yelling, singing, and coughing

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