



Petersburg Medical Center

103 Fram Street
PO Box 589
Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone: 907-772-4291
Fax: 907-772-3085

PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 17, 2021
From: Petersburg Medical Center

CASE UPDATE:

| Active Cases | Resident | Non-Resident | Travel Related | Secondary Exposure | Community Exposure |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

One new case was identified this week, travel related.

Travel testing: Travelers are urged to test twice: once on arrival and a second test 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. Please bring a photo ID.

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 Thursdays from 9:00 am – noon at the respiratory clinic, first floor next to public health. No appointment is necessary, minors require parent authorization. If 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine: All three vaccines are currently available at PMC and home delivery of the vaccine is currently offered. Public Health (907-772-4611) offers Pfizer and Rexall Pharmacy (907-772-3265) has a limited supply of Janssen (J&J). Fully vaccinated persons have a significantly decreased risk of hospitalization and death. The overwhelming majority of hospitalized COVID-19 patients are not vaccinated.

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. The FDA and CDC's expert panel will be evaluating the effectiveness and safety of a booster shot for other groups, further guidance should be available in the coming weeks. PMC will contact all patients who received at least one of their doses at PMC once the date is announced and available.

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.

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