



Petersburg Medical Center

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 24, 2021
From: Petersburg Medical Center

CASE UPDATE:

| Active Cases | Resident | Non-Resident | Travel Related | Secondary Exposure | Community Exposure | Source of Exposure Unknown |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 21 | 21 | 0 | 1 | | | 20 |

PMC reports an additional two cases today. Community spread of COVID-19 can be controlled by testing, identifying positive cases early and isolating early. Contact tracing helps to identify potential exposures. Contact tracing is hampered by the high number of new cases across the state. Persons who test positive are urged to notify their contacts. Contacts should stay home and monitor for symptoms. Persons uncomfortable notifying their close contacts may contact Public Health at 907-772-4611 for assistance.

Thank you to community members who have participated in asymptomatic testing. Asymptomatic testing will be offered on the following schedule:

- Tuesday, September 28 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. PMC, next to Public Health
- Thursday, September 30 from 9:00 -Noon. PMC, next to Public Health
- Monday – Saturday from Noon – 4:00 PM for Travel testing. PMC Emergency Department Entrance

Persons with symptoms are asked to call the COVID Information Line at 907-772-5788 to schedule a symptomatic test through the clinic.

When to test if you have been exposed?

- Vaccinated persons who are a close contact: test on day 3-5 after last exposure.
- Unvaccinated persons who are close contacts: test after day 6 of last exposure to a positive case. Persons who are quarantined and do not have any symptoms may be tested at the Asymptomatic testing times.
- Persons who participated in social gatherings, particularly when social distance could not be maintained are urged to test following the above guidelines.

Masks must cover nose and mouth and strict social distancing will be required for everyone participating in asymptomatic testing.

SAVE TIME: Submit test requests online by visiting www.pmcak.org, select the drop down for COVID-19 and open the Covid Test Request Form. Forms do not need to be printed if you submit with an electronic signature. The forms may also be completed on a tablet or phone using this QR code:



STAY HOME IF SYMPTOMS DEVELOP! Children should not attend school/day care if they have 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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VACCINE UPDATE: All three types of COVID-19 vaccines are available in Petersburg. To schedule your first dose call either PMC (907-772-5788) or Public Health (907-772-4611). Third dose mRNA vaccines are available for those persons with compromised immune systems. **Booster Shots** have been approved and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has provided the following information about Pfizer booster doses:

Many Alaskans who are at the highest risk for COVID-19 are now eligible to receive a Pfizer booster dose at least six months after the second dose of their Pfizer vaccine series. The CDC recommends:

- people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- people aged 50 to 64 with **certain underlying medical conditions** **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- people 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to **certain underlying medical conditions** **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks; and
- people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of **occupational or institutional setting** **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

There is not enough information available to make additional recommendations for other populations or people who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

<https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/vaccineappointments.aspx#doses>

PMC will be contacting persons eligible for a Pfizer Booster dose in the next few weeks. Persons who received their Pfizer doses outside of Petersburg are asked to call to schedule a booster if they qualify by calling 907-772-5788, option 4.

FLU SHOTS will also be available in the next few weeks, additional information will be provided shortly.

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