



# Petersburg Medical Center

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## PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 3, 2021  
From: Petersburg Medical Center

### CASE UPDATE:

Active Cases	Resident	Non-Resident	Travel Related	Secondary Exposure	Community Exposure
2	2	0	2	0	0

Many hospitals across Alaska continue to experience extremely high rates of hospitalizations and some emergency departments are closed. There are currently 165 persons hospitalized with COVID-19 in Alaskan hospitals, the highest number since the Pandemic began in March 2020. This is a screenshot of the state hospital capacity dashboard on 9/3/21:

Hospital Status Dashboard Southcentral/Interior	Adult ICU	Adult Non-ICU Inpatient	Psych	Emergency Department
Alaska Native Medical Center Call ACHC to help test availability before using an alternate testing location. Do not rely on the dashboard alone. Last updated: 9/3/2021, 8:19 AM	Near Capacity	Near Capacity	Closed ED Psych divert	Closed ED Recovery
Alaska Regional Hospital Last Update: 9/3/2021, 8:19 AM	Closed	Closed	Closed Inpatient Psych Closed	Closed ED Recovery
Providence Alaska Medical Center Last Update: 9/3/2021, 8:22 PM	Closed	Near Capacity	Closed ED Psych divert	Closed ED Recovery, Adult Med
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Hospital Last Update: 9/3/2021, 6:18 PM	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed Hospital Closure
Central Peninsula Hospital Last Update: 9/3/2021, 10:24 PM	Closed	Closed	N/A	N/A
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Last Update: 9/3/2021, 1:15 PM	Closed	Near Capacity	Open	N/A
Mat-Su Regional Medical Center Last Update: 9/3/2021, 11:18 AM	Closed	Near Capacity	Open	N/A

Persons should NOT travel to or from Petersburg with symptoms suggestive of COVID. Travel poses the greatest risk for COVID-19 exposure, an ill individual puts an unknown number of people at risk for infection. Use the CDC symptom tracker to determine if you need a test or call the COVID Information Line to speak with a nurse.

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

Travelers are encouraged to test after travel on day zero and again when symptoms develop or on day seven if no symptoms develop. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Monday through Saturday from Noon - 4:00 pm. There is no charge for travel testing and no appointment is necessary.



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**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 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.

**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). PMC offers home delivery of vaccine. 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. 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, booster doses are not currently offered or recommended. 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.

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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