



Date: August 27, 2021

To: Assembly Health Policy Committee

Thru: DeeAnn Fetko, Anchorage Health Department Acting Director *DAF*

From: Dr. Michael Savitt, Anchorage Health Department Chief Medical Officer *MBS*

Subject: August 27, 2021, COVID-19 Risk Assessment Update for the Municipality of Anchorage

This weekly report shares data available on the State of Alaska (SOA) and Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) websites for the period August 19, 2021 – August 25, 2021, as well as some older data as noted. Unless otherwise indicated, this data is for cases reported in the MOA.

Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Clusters

- **Daily new cases.** The current 14-day rolling daily average of 60.3 cases per 100,000 residents, is a 20% increase over last week. The 14-day average has not been this high since mid-December 2020, and this is the tenth week in a row that the 14-day average has increased.
- **New cases this week.** There were 1,326 new resident cases this week, which is a 19% increase over the 1,112 new resident cases reported last week.
- **Alert level.** Anchorage is in the High risk alert level per [DHSS](#) and [CDC](#) transmission data tracking.
- **Risk by vaccination status.** 91% of all cases, 92% of all hospitalizations, and 94% of deaths among Alaska residents from January 1 through August 14, 2021 were in people who were not fully vaccinated. With approximately 59.9% of eligible residents age 12 and older completed a COVID-19 vaccines series, Anchorage comprises two subpopulations with very different COVID-19 risk profiles.
- **Age and race distribution:** Age and race breakdowns will now be provided in the last report of each month, starting in September.
- **Cumulative cases.** As of August 25, there have been 37,262 confirmed cases in the MOA. This includes 36,404 Anchorage residents in- and out-of-state and 860 nonresidents who tested positive in Anchorage.
- **Current hospitalizations.** As of August 25, there are 70 hospitalized COVID-19 cases. The number of hospitalized cases ranged between 67 and 71 this week. This is consistent with last week when the number of hospitalized cases ranged between 69 and 83.
- **Deaths.** There have been 212 Anchorage deaths, 209 among Anchorage residents, and three among nonresidents. This is an increase of nine resident deaths since last week.
- **Clusters.** From August 19-25, cases identified as part of a cluster were associated with different types of group living settings, such as skilled nursing and rehab facilities, as well as correctional facilities, schools, an air travel company and child care facilities.

Health Care Capacity

- **ICU beds.** On average, between August 19 and August 25, 9.3% of staffed adult ICU beds at the three acute care hospitals in Anchorage were available. This is comparable to adult ICU bed availability the week before. During August 19 – 25, the number of staffed adult ICU beds ranged from 60 to 61, and the number of available staffed adult ICU beds ranged from 1 to 7.

Infection Rate

- The Rt from the SOA model on August 25 was 1.15. Rt above one indicates that the virus is continuing to spread. See Table 1.

Table 1: Reproductive Number Estimates

Geography, Source	August 18	August 25
Anchorage, SOA model, (in-state residents only)	1.14	1.15

Testing

- **Percent positivity:** On average, between August 19 and August 24, approximately 7.0% of COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests had positive test results. This is an 1% decrease from last weeks' seven-day average percent positivity rate of 7.1%. Percent positivity increasing above 3% indicates that we are missing cases because the community may not be accessing the available testing.
- **Test volume:** Tests are not counted until test results are received. Test counts for more recent weeks will increase as more test results are received. Increasing testing volume along with increased test percent positivity suggests that the increasing case counts are real and not just an artifact of testing. See Table 2.

Table 2: Weekly Test Volume Indicators, updated as of August 19

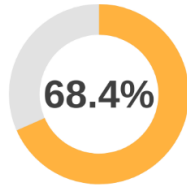
Indicator	August 4 – 9	August 12 – 18	August 19 – 25 <i>Provisional</i>	White House Target (>2,000 per week)
Tests in the week	22,768	22,076	18,057	5,780
Average daily tests per 100,000	1,126	1,091	839	>285

Vaccination

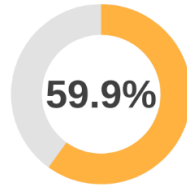
Percent of Population Vaccinated

Ages 12+, including JBER

FIRST DOSE (12+)
Percent with one dose complete



SERIES COMPLETE (12+)*
Percent with full series complete



*Vaccine series complete: Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require a two-dose series. Johnson&Johnson/Jansen vaccine requires a single dose series.

Data updated as of August 25, 2021

According to VacTrAK, 166,844 first COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to residents aged 12 and older within Anchorage, and 146,289 vaccine series have been completed as of August 25. VacTrAK does not include data regarding vaccine doses administered by the Veterans Administration (VA) or the Department of Defense (DoD).

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) provides vaccine dose counts directly to the MOA. As of our most recent update on June 30, 10,579 first doses have been administered at JBER, and 9,662 vaccine series have been completed.

Note 8/27: The Municipality of Anchorage vaccine dashboard is in the process of being updated following a review to remove duplicates, update JBER data, and ensure alignment with DHSS reporting. This update may result in minor changes to the percent vaccinated.

Table 3: Resident Vaccination by Dose and Population Percentage, Municipality of Anchorage. (VacTrAK & JBER)

Anchorage	First Dose	Series Complete	Anchorage Population
Total Vaccinated Individuals	166,844	146,289	288,970
12+ Percent Vaccinated	68.4%	59.9%	243,890
65+ Percent Vaccinated	81.6%	77.4%	35,455
Total Population Percent Vaccinated	57.7%	50.6%	288,970

Additional Community Factors

We continue to watch the following community factors which may affect COVID transmission:

- Increased prevalence of more transmissible Variants of Concern, especially the Delta variant.
- Recent increases in vaccination uptake.
- Minimal use of non-pharmacologic interventions, including masks, physical distancing, and handwashing.
- Increasing case counts across the state and the country.
- Hospitals reporting surge in cases, limited beds available.
- School starting, leading to a high volume of unvaccinated children interacting.

Recommendations

Messaging to the public:

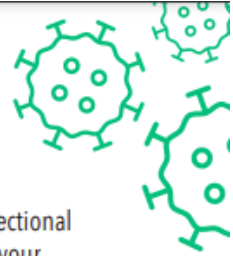
- **Get vaccinated**
 - o The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) fully approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (now be marketed as Comirnaty) for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The Pfizer vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. (8/23/2021)
 - o To reduce likelihood of future infection, all eligible persons should be offered COVID-19 vaccine, even those with previous SARS-CoV-2 ([see recently published MMWR](#))
 - o As per the CDC, [COVID-19 vaccination safe for pregnant people](#) (8/11/2021)
 - o CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that endorsed the use of an [additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems](#) after 28 days or more following an initial two-dose vaccine series. (8/13/2021)
- **Wear a mask in public indoor settings** if you are in an area of [substantial or high transmission](#) ([Anchorage is currently HIGH](#)) <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- **Practice physical distancing**
- **Wash your hands** for at least 20 seconds or sanitize your hands frequently
- **Get tested** (anchoragecovidtest.org) if you experience [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or are exposed to someone with COVID-19, whether you have had the disease or, are vaccinated or unvaccinated (see Alaska Department of Health and Social Services graphic below)
 - o **[Monoclonal antibody treatment](#) is available** in Anchorage for individuals ages 12 and older who have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and are at risk for severe illness. These treatments are recommended by the [Infectious Disease Society of America](#) and the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#). Monoclonal antibodies help the immune system recognize and respond more effectively to the virus. The treatment can prevent severe symptoms and hospitalization. Contact your medical provider for more information and referral. If you do not have a health care provider, or need additional information about treatment sites, call the Statewide COVID-19 Helpline at 907-646-3322 and ask for an interpreter immediately if needed.

Recommendations for local businesses:

- Encourage and continue to support telework when feasible
- Encourage use of virtual meetings (video- or tele-conference) versus in person meetings when feasible
- Encourage event organizers to consider keeping number of participants small, encourage mask wearing and hosting events outside whenever feasible
- Encourage unvaccinated frontline workers to get tested weekly and anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 to get tested as needed to ensure continuity of critical services
- Consider allowing employees to get tested or vaccinated on work time
- Encourage all employers to review OSHA's Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace (<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>)

Feeling Sick or Exposed to COVID-19

Now What?



This guidance applies to the general public. But if you live or work in a high-risk setting such as a correctional institution, health care facility, an assisted living facility, or a fish-processing plant, talk to someone at your facility for guidance.

UNVACCINATED

VACCINATED*

If you test positive for COVID-19

ISOLATE

Until cleared by public health (usually 10 days, but may vary depending on symptoms), monitor your symptoms, and contact your health care provider if symptoms become worrisome.

If you are exposed to COVID-19 and have NO symptoms

GET TESTED and QUARANTINE

Until cleared by public health (7-14 days) depending on testing and location.

GET TESTED and MONITOR

Carefully for symptoms for 14 days. Wear a mask. Quarantine not required.

If you are exposed to COVID-19 and have ANY symptoms

GET TESTED and ISOLATE

- If positive, keep isolating.
- If negative, stay home while you have symptoms or until you are finished with QUARANTINE, whichever is longer. Talk to a health care provider and consider testing again.

GET TESTED and ISOLATE

- If positive, keep isolating.
- If negative, stay home while you have symptoms. Talk to a health care provider and consider testing again.

If you have ANY symptoms of COVID-19 and no known exposure

GET TESTED and STAY HOME

- If positive, isolate for 10 days
- If negative, stay home while you have symptoms. Talk to a health care provider and consider testing again.

*A person is fully vaccinated if two weeks have passed since receiving the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

