



Date: June 30, 2021

To: Assembly Health Policy Committee

Thru: Heather Harris, Anchorage Health Department Director *HH*

From: Janet Johnston, Anchorage Health Department Epidemiologist *JMJ*

Subject: **Error! Reference source not found.**, 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 June 23, 2021 – June 29, 2021, as well as some older data as noted. The reporting week has shifted to use data available on the SOA and MOA dashboards as of Wednesday afternoon now that SOA is only updating most dashboards on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Unless otherwise indicated, this data is for cases reported in the MOA.

Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Clusters

Case Counts, Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Clusters

- **Daily new cases.** The current 14-day rolling daily average of 6.00 cases per 100,000 residents, which is a 50% increase over last week.
- **New cases this week.** There were 136 new resident cases this week, which is a 28% increase over the 106 new resident cases reported last week.
- **Risk by vaccination status.** With approximately 55% of eligible residents age 12 and older and 58% of residents age 16 and older having completed a COVID-19 vaccines series, Anchorage comprises two subpopulations with very different COVID-19 risk profiles. Unvaccinated individuals currently experience a risk for COVID-19 infection equivalent to an average daily new case count of approximately 10.4 per 100,000 residents, while their vaccinated counterparts experience a risk equivalent to 1.04 per 100,000.
- **Age and race distribution:** Age and race breakdowns will be provided monthly in the first report of the month.
- **Cumulative cases.** As of June 29, there are 31,233 confirmed cases in the MOA. This includes 30,595 Anchorage residents in- and out-of-state and 638 nonresidents testing positive in Anchorage.
- **Current hospitalizations.** As of June 28, there are 13 hospitalized COVID-19 cases. The number of hospitalized cases ranged between six and 13 this week. As of June 28, there are no hospitalized Persons Under Investigation (PUI). Hospitalizations were lower than last week for much of the week but increased yesterday to the highest level since June 6.
- **Deaths.** There have been 181 Anchorage deaths, 179 among Anchorage residents, and two among nonresidents. This is an increase of one resident death since last weeks' reports.

- **Clusters.** There were seven Anchorage cases opened in CommCare during the past week, June 22 through June 28, identified as part of a cluster. Four were associated with a church camp and three with a food service distributor. The church camp cluster includes at least ten confirmed cases, and the food service distributor cluster includes at least five confirmed cases.

Health Care Capacity

- **ICU beds.** On average, between June 22 and June 28, 23.4% of staffed adult ICU beds at the three acute care hospitals in Anchorage were available. This is higher than the 20.1% available on average the week before. Between June 22 and June 28, the number of staffed adult ICU beds ranged from 66 to 71, and the number of available staffed adult ICU beds ranged from four to 40. The 40 available adult ICU beds reported for June 28 is much higher than that same number for any day in the past nine months and maybe a data entry error. Excluding data from June 28, 17.9% of staffed adult ICU beds were available during the past week, with the number of available beds ranging from four to 16.

Infection Rate

- The consensus R_t of 1.20 is higher than last week's consensus estimate of 1.06. The consensus R_t weighs the SOA model more heavily this week because the COVID ActNow case count currently lags the State count. R_t above one indicates that the virus is continuing to spread. The current R_t estimate from the SOA model is similar to R_t estimates from the SOA model last fall. See Table 1.

Table 1: Reproductive Number Estimates

| Geography, Source | June 16 | June 16 (updated) | June 23 |
|---|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Anchorage, COVID ActNow | 1.00 | 1.04 | 0.98 |
| Anchorage, SOA model, (in-state residents only) | 1.13 | 1.25 | 1.30 |

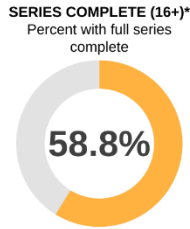
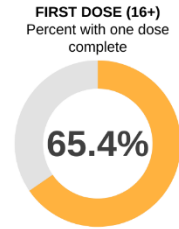
Testing

- **Percent positivity:**
 - On average, between June 23 and June 29, approximately 1.6% of COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests had positive test results. This is a small increase over last weeks' seven-day average percent positivity rate of 1.5%.
- **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. See Table 2.

Table 2: Weekly Test Volume Indicators, updated as of June 30

| Indicator | June 8 - June 14 | June 15 - June 21 | June 22 - June 28 | White House Target (>2,000 per week) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tests in the week | 10,730 | 8,958 | 8,713 | 5,780 |
| Average daily tests per 100,000 | 530 | 443 | 431 | >285 |

Vaccination



*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 June 30, 2021

According to VacTrAK, 142,715 first COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to residents aged 12 and older within Anchorage, and 127,225 vaccine series have been completed as of June 29. 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.
- Age and race breakdowns for individuals receiving first vaccine doses will be provided in the first report of each month.

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

| Anchorage | First Dose | Series Complete | Anchorage Population |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Total Vaccinated Individuals | 153,294 | 136,887 | 288,970 |
| 12+ Percent Vaccinated | 62.9% | 56.1% | 243,890 |
| 16+ Percent Vaccinated | 65.4% | 58.8% | 228,217 |
| 65+ Percent Vaccinated | 79.3% | 75.4% | 35,455 |
| Total Population Percent Vaccinated | 53.0% | 47.4% | 288,970 |

Additional Community Factors

We continue to watch the following community factors which may increase COVID-19 risk within the Municipality:

- Increased prevalence of more transmissible Variants of Concern, including the Delta variant.
- Very slow increases in vaccination coverage.
- Minimal use of non-pharmacologic interventions, including masks and social distancing, despite more than half of the total population not being fully vaccinated.
- High numbers of travelers to Alaska for both employment and tourism.