



**Date:** August 13, 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 13, 2021, COVID-19 Risk Assessment Update for the Municipality of Anchorage

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This weekly report shares data available on the State of Alaska (SOA) and Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) websites for the period August 5, 2021 – August 11, 2021, as well as some older data as noted. Unless otherwise indicated, this data is for cases reported in the MOA.

*Note: This report has not been published since July 23, 2021, due to transition at the Anchorage Health Department. The data in this report is not compared to the July 23 report. Going forward, data will be compared to the previous week, consistent with the prior reporting.*

## **Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Clusters**

- **Daily new cases.** The current 14-day rolling daily average of 40.6 cases per 100,000 residents. The 14-day average has not been this high since early January 2021, and this is the eighth week in a row that the 14-day average has increased.
- **New cases this week.** There were 842 new resident cases this week, which is a 59% increase over the 531 new resident cases reported in the last report on July 23.
- **Risk by vaccination status.** 92% of all cases, 94% of all hospitalizations, and 96% of deaths among Alaska residents from January 1 through August 7, 2021 were in people who were not fully vaccinated. With approximately 59% of eligible residents age 12 and older having 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.
- **Cumulative cases.** As of August 11, there are 34,409 confirmed cases in the MOA. This includes 33,656 Anchorage residents in- and out-of-state and 753 nonresidents testing positive in Anchorage.
- **Current hospitalizations.** As of August 11, there are 64 hospitalized COVID-19 cases. The number of hospitalized cases ranged between 52 and 64 this week. The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has been trending steadily upward since hitting a low of six on June 26. The last time there were 64 hospitalized COVID-19 patients was December 2020.
- **Deaths.** There have been 195 Anchorage deaths, 192 among Anchorage residents, and three among nonresidents. This is an increase of three resident deaths since last week. The State of Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records (HAVRS) system is currently inaccessible which impacts our ability to identify some COVID-19 deaths.

## Health Care Capacity

- **ICU beds.** On average, between August 5 and August 11, 7.6% of staffed adult ICU beds at the three acute care hospitals in Anchorage were available. This is similar to adult ICU bed availability the week before. Between August 5 and 11, the number of staffed adult ICU beds ranged from 59 to 67, and the number of available staffed adult ICU beds ranged from 0 to 10.

## Infection Rate

- The  $R_t$  from the SOA model on August 10 was 1.18.  $R_t$  above one indicates that the virus is continuing to spread. See Table 1.

**Table 1: Reproductive Number Estimates**

Geography, Source	August 10
Anchorage, SOA model, (in-state residents only)	1.18

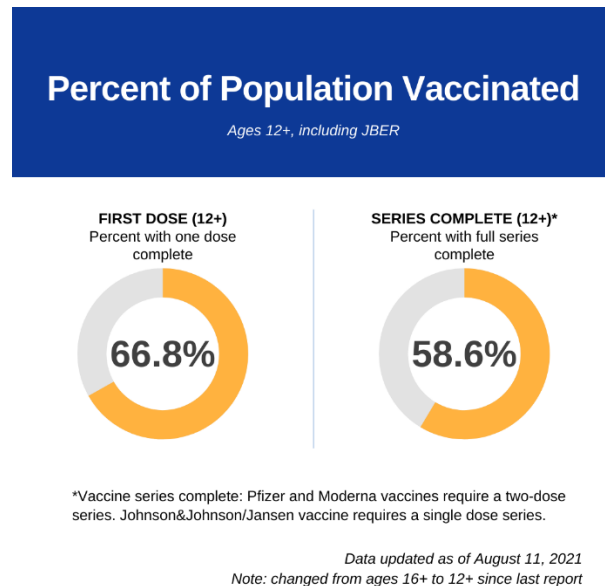
## Testing

- **Percent positivity:** On average, between August 5 and August 11, approximately 7% of COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests had positive test results. Percent positivity increasing above 3%, indicates that we may be starting to miss some cases due to lack of sufficient 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 9**

Indicator	August 4-9	White House Target (>2,000 per week)
Tests in the week	10,328	5,780
Average daily tests per 100,000	510	>285

## Vaccination



According to VacTrAK, 152,262 first COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to residents aged 12 and older within Anchorage, and 133,499 vaccine series have been completed as of August 11. 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 now be provided in the last 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
<b>Total Vaccinated Individuals</b>	162,841	143,161	288,970
<b>12+ Percent Vaccinated</b>	66.8%	58.6%	243,890
<b>65+ Percent Vaccinated</b>	80.9%	76.7%	35,455
<b>Total Population Percent Vaccinated</b>	52.8%	46.3%	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, social distancing, and handwashing.
- Increasing case counts and 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 Note: Full FDA approval for the Pfizer vaccine from the US Food and Drug Administration is expected within next few weeks so messaging should be focused on alerting the public and encouraging them to get ready to get vaccinated if they have been waiting for this to be officially approved.

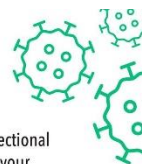
- To reduce their likelihood for future infection, all eligible persons should be offered COVID-19 vaccine, even those with previous SARS-CoV-2 ([see recently published MMWR](#))
- As per the CDC, COVID-19 [vaccination safe for pregnant people](#) (8/11/2021)
- [CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization 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](#))
- Practice social distancing
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitize your hands frequently
- [Get tested](#) 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)

*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](#)

## 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	<b>ISOLATE</b> Until cleared by public health (usually 10 days, but may vary depending on symptoms).	
If you are exposed to COVID-19 and have NO symptoms	<b>GET TESTED and QUARANTINE</b> Until cleared by public health (7-14 days) depending on testing and location.	<b>GET TESTED and MONITOR</b> Carefully for symptoms for 14 days. Wear a mask. Quarantine not required.
If you are exposed to COVID-19 and have ANY symptoms	<b>GET TESTED and ISOLATE</b> - 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.	<b>GET TESTED and ISOLATE</b> - 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	<b>GET TESTED and STAY HOME</b> - 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.

