



**Date:** May 15, 2020  
**To:** Mayor Ethan Berkowitz  
**From:** Natasha Pineda, Director  
**Subject:** May 15, 2020, COVID-19 Risk Assessment Update

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This is a weekly report designed to accompany a review of the data dashboard. This will be reviewed and discussed on May 15, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Based on the data reviewed for the past week, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) continues to be a **GREEN LIGHT** for all three metrics (epidemiology, health care capacity and public health capacity.) There continues to be supply chain disruption for PPE and there is evidence of persons in Anchorage with infection who do not have symptoms, at this time. The Anchorage Health Department (AHD) recommends that the public continue physical distancing, use of masks/face coverings and frequent hand washing.

### **Epidemiology**

This metric considers a variety of factors like case counts and COVID-19-related hospitalizations or Persons Under Investigation (PUI) who are hospitalized. We are tracking if the cases are attributable to community transmission (no identifiable source) or due to travel or secondary transmission (close contacts of a diagnosed case). We are carefully monitoring other factors that can trigger changes to interventions, such as congregate settings, high-density housing and other causes or risk factors that could contribute to increased transmission.

### ***Data analysis:***

#### **Case Count Trends**

- *Average daily rate of new COVID-19 cases, based on onset, is the same as last week: .9 per day from May 7-13, 2020, versus .9 a week ago. Peak was 6.9 cases per day just over three weeks ago. **Please note:** this is different than last week because we used per day reported not day of onset. Going forward we will use onset date.*
- *We had a total of six new cases\* from May 7-13, 2020, which mirrored the previous week. (\*Technically seven but one was tested back in March outside of Alaska and we didn't receive the report from the other state until this week.)*
- **Interpretation:** *New cases are being found at a very low rate that is unchanged from last week.*

## Percent Positive

- Percentage of tests which were positive over the last week is just 0.10% vs. 0.60% last week. **Please note:** Last week we used a statewide number and this week it is an Anchorage-based number, which is why there is a difference.
- **Interpretation:** PCR testing continues at a similar pace to last week. The low percentage of positives is a sign that we are probably doing enough testing, overall.

## COVID/PUI hospitalization trends

- As of May 13, 2020, there were nine PUIs hospitalized and no fatalities.
- **Interpretation:** Hospitalizations remain low.

## Health Care Capacity

This metric measures if we can care for our population safely in the case of a surge and test for disease. We want to ensure that we have capacity measured by ICU beds and ventilators, that our health care providers and first responders can source their own PPE and we need to ensure that testing supplies and testing activity is happening at the right level.

### **Data analysis:**

#### **Ability/Capacity to meet anticipated case surge**

- ICU Beds: as of May 13, 2020, we have 51 beds available out of 121, this is in the **YELLOW** zone.
- Ventilators: as of May 13, 2020, 183 ventilators available out of 205.
- Reproductive number estimates (most recent available):
  - COVID ActNow Model estimates Anchorage R0 at 1.06 on May 5, 2020
    - Peak was 1.96 on March 22, 2020
  - SOA model estimates Alaska R0 at 0.76 on May 8, 2020
    - Peak was 2.1 on March 16, 2020
  - YYG model estimates Alaska R0 at 0.44 on May 13, 2020
    - Peak was 1.46
- **Interpretation:** Health care capacity is sufficient for current demand. Epidemic is stable or decreasing.

#### **Sufficient PPE for all health care workers and first responders**

- Health care and first responders able to achieve a sufficient amount of PPE but not through normal channels.
- As of May 13, 2020, 46.43% of Anchorage based providers report adequate PPE, 43.45% reported limited and 7.74% report inadequate, per the ASHNA dashboard.
- This measurement is in the **YELLOW** zone.
- **Interpretation:** Supply chain remains disrupted; this is an area of concern as it was last week.

### **Ability and capacity to test widely**

- *Average daily test rate in Anchorage is now at 391 tests, up from 317 the week prior. **Please note:** last week we reported the statewide number, this is the Anchorage averages for May 7-13, 2020, and April 30-May 6, 2020, respectively.*
- *On May 13, 2020, hospitals reported 9,287 swabs and 2,996 UTM/VTM testing capacity on hand. AHD has 317 kits (swabs and UTM) on hand.*
- *Testing kit requests into the state since last week:*
  - *May 7, 2020: MOA ordered 300 test kits for Medical Park Family. Pending*
  - *May 12, 2020: MOA ordered 20 test kits for St Elias Hospital. Pending*
  - *May 13, 2020: MOA ordered 20 test kits for local Dental practice. Pending.*
- ***Interpretation:** Supplies on hand are adequate for maintaining testing of symptomatic persons and implementing some community-based testing strategies.*

### **Public Health Capacity**

This metric measures AHD's capacity to continue to be able to track and follow the positive cases and their contacts, ensuring as many people as possible self-isolate or quarantine depending on the situation and testing of symptomatic contacts.

#### ***Data analysis:***

#### **All positive cases interviewed, and all contacts monitored.**

- *As of May 13, 2020, the AHD team interviewed over 198 positive cases, currently monitoring 17 cases.*
- *As of May 13, 2020, the AHD team monitored a total of 565 contacts, currently monitoring 161 contacts.*
- *As of May 13, 2020, the AHD team has monitored a total of 763 cases and contacts.*

#### **Symptomatic contacts referred to testing within 24 hours.**

- *As of May 13, 2020, the AHD team was able to refer all symptomatic cases for testing.*

***Interpretation:*** *Public health contact tracing capacity is sufficient to meet current need.*

#### **Other items of note:**

- Among this past week's new cases are:
  - 2 people without symptoms who were screened for hospital admission and procedures.
  - 2 people admitted to the hospital for non-COVID-19 conditions.
  - 1 person without symptoms who was screened for work clearance.
  - 1 newly arrived traveler with symptoms from the Lower 48.

- **Interpretation:** *This indicates that there are persons in Anchorage with infection who do not have symptoms. This highlights the need to continue physical distancing, use of masks and handwashing.*
  
- This means we know there is COVID-19 circulating in Anchorage. While we fortunately do not have widespread transmission in Anchorage at this time, remember:
  - There are people out and about in Anchorage with unrecognized COVID-19 who are infectious even though they do not have symptoms.
  - Most of us remain susceptible, and some of us are at great risk of severe disease and death.
  - Despite the easing of restrictions, it is still essential that we follow the basic steps needed to prevent transmission of the virus, to protect ourselves, our families, and our community.
    - practice physical distancing
    - use masks/face coverings in public spaces
    - practice careful handwashing
  
- One hundred and two years ago, the US had over 1 million soldiers stationed in France, including hundreds of thousands that had traveled overseas that spring, bringing with them influenza from the initial outbreak at Fort Riley, Kansas. This “spring wave” was mild in comparison with the second wave that began in September. An estimated 50 million people died from this pandemic worldwide, including 675,000 deaths in the U.S.