



Date: February 5, 2021

To: Acting Mayor Austin Quinn-Davidson

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

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

Subject: February 5, 2021, COVID-19 Risk Assessment Update for the Municipality of Anchorage

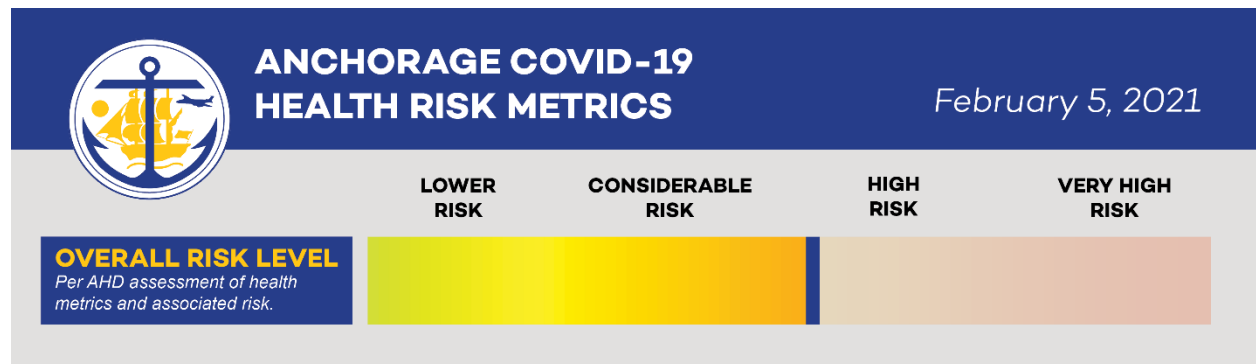
This weekly report shares data available on the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) websites for the period of January 28, 2020 – February 3, 2021, with some more recent data. Unless otherwise indicated, this data is for cases reported in the MOA.

Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics

The MOA developed the Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics tool (Appendix 1) to communicate the current level of health risks associated with COVID-19 within the Municipality. The tool includes multiple measures, which are referenced throughout this report.

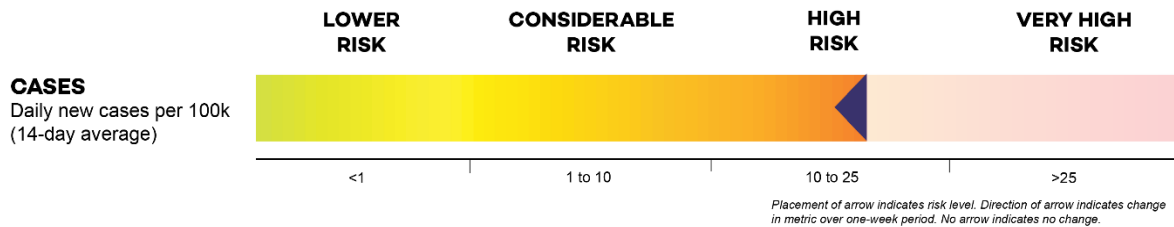
Each metric is assigned one of four categories each week, ranging from Very High Risk to Low Risk. Risk categories are based on public health authorities' standards, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Harvard Global Health Institute.

The Overall Anchorage COVID-19 Risk Level for this week remains at the lower end of the High-Risk category. This Overall Risk Level is a consensus metric derived from individual metrics, with appropriate weight given to the most important metrics – Cases and Health Care Capacity. Additional community-level factors that affect risks associated with COVID-19 within the Municipality are also considered.



Cases

Cases: February 5, 2021



Case Counts, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

- **Daily new cases.** The current 14-day rolling daily average of 18.11 cases per 100,000 has dropped 9% from one week ago (19.70). This keeps us in the upper end of the “High Risk” category for the Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics.
- **New cases this week.** There were 346 new resident cases this week, down from 422 new resident cases last week. See Table 1 for breakdown by race and ethnicity and Table 2 for breakdown by age.
- **Cumulative cases.** As of February 3, there are 25,675 confirmed cases in the MOA. This includes 25,209 Anchorage residents in- and out-of-state and 466 nonresidents testing positive in Anchorage.
- **Current hospitalizations.** As of February 3, there were 41 hospitalized COVID-19 cases. The number of hospitalized cases ranged from 29 to 41 this week. As of February 3, there were two hospitalized Persons Under Investigation (PUI). The number of hospitalized PUIs ranged from one to five. Hospitalizations have increased since the previous weeks despite declining case counts. The increase in hospitalizations is likely associated with outbreaks in other parts of the state.
- **Deaths.** There have been 152 Anchorage deaths, 151 among Anchorage residents and one non-resident. This is eleven more than was reported in the Mayor’s Report last week. Most of these newly reported deaths occurred in previous months but were not reported until death certificate reviews were complete.
- See Table 1 for breakdowns by race and ethnicity and Table 2 for breakdowns by age.



Table 1: COVID-19 Cases by Race and Ethnicity (excluding cases with missing race or ethnicity data)

Race	Cases in the Last Week			All Cases			Hospitalizations			Deaths		
	Cases	%	Rate*	Cases	%	Rate*	Cases	%	Hosp. rate per 100 cases	Cases	%	Death rate per 100 cases
American Indian or Alaska Native	55	24%	215	3,522	20%	13,781	136	18%	3.9	43	28%	1.2
Asian	17	7%	65	1,209	7%	4,654	74	10%	6.1	23	15%	1.9
Black or African American	14	6%	92	852	5%	5,603	35	5%	4.1	9	6%	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	2%	62	957	5%	11,902	107	14%	11.2	16	11%	1.7
White	81	35%	45	6,469	36%	3,586	192	25%	3.0	56	37%	0.9
Other Race	30	13%	462	2,896	16%	44,622	35	5%	1.2	-	0%	-
Two or More Races	28	12%	106	1,899	11%	7,209	179	24%	9.4	4	3%	0.2
All Cases (race known)	230	100%	80	17,804	100%	6,182	758	1	4.3	151	100%	0.8
Ethnicity	Cases	%	Rate*	Cases	%	Rate*	Cases	%	Rate	Cases	%	Rate
Hispanic	7	6%	26	1,334	13%	4,942	35	7%	2.6	10	7%	0.7
Non-Hispanic	101	94%	39	9,043	87%	3,465	455	93%	5.0	138	93%	5.3
All Cases (ethnicity known)	108	100%	38	10,377	1	3,603	490	1	4.7	148	100%	1.4

* Per 100,000

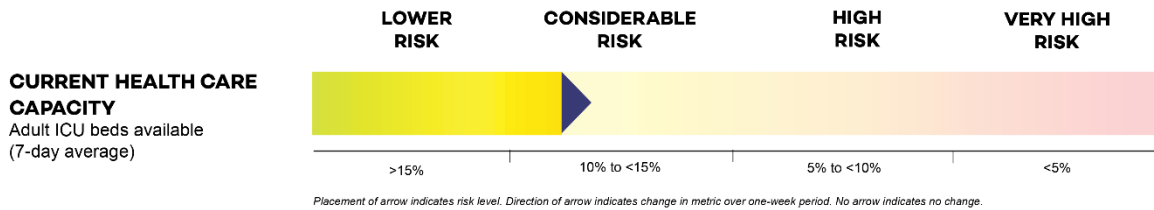
Table 2: COVID-19 Cases by Age (excluding cases with missing age data)

Age	Last Week Cases			All Cases, All Time			Hospitalizations			Deaths		
	Cases	Percent	Rate*	Cases	Percent	Rate*	Cases	Percent	Hosp. rate per 100 cases	Cases	Percent	Death rate per 100 cases
0 to 9	14	4%	34	1,520	6%	3,741	5	1%	0.3	-	0%	-
10 to 19	48	14%	130	2,824	11%	7,674	6	1%	0.2	-	0%	-
20 to 29	66	19%	147	5,437	22%	12,113	31	5%	0.6	2	1%	0.0
30 to 39	67	20%	148	4,971	20%	10,959	60	9%	1.2	1	1%	0.0
40 to 49	57	17%	172	3,488	14%	10,520	69	10%	2.0	7	5%	0.2
50 to 59	40	12%	109	3,214	13%	8,767	114	17%	3.5	14	9%	0.4
60 to 69	31	9%	108	2,336	9%	8,139	145	21%	6.2	29	19%	1.2
70 to 79	15	4%	92	959	4%	5,910	158	23%	16.5	53	35%	5.5
80+	5	1%	90	445	2%	7,972	99	14%	22.2	45	30%	10.1
All Cases	343	100%	119	25,194	100%	8,748	687	100%	2.7	151	100%	0.6

* Per 100,000

Health Care Capacity

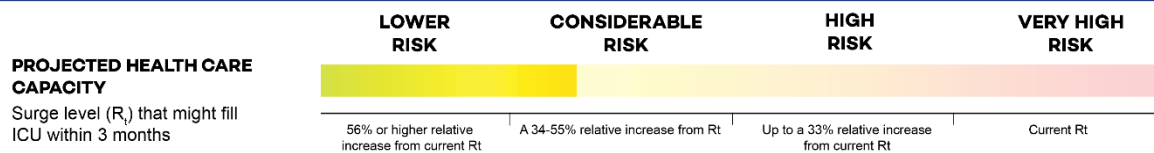
Health Care Capacity: February 5, 2021



- **ICU beds.** On average, between January 28 and February 3, 13.8% of staffed adult ICU beds at the three acute care hospitals in Anchorage were available. During that time, the number of staffed adult ICU beds ranged from 58 to 68 and then number of available staffed adult ICU beds ranged from four to twelve. This moves us into the lower end of the “Considerable Risk” category for the Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics.
- **Non-ICU beds.** As of February 3, there were 126 available adult non-ICU beds out of 486 total staffed adult non-ICU beds.
- **Ventilators.** As of February 3, there were 10 COVID-19 patients on ventilators in Anchorage, twice that of last week.
- **Hospital Impact:** As of February 3, 8.1% of all hospitalizations and 7.2% of Emergency Department (ED) visits at the three acute care hospitals in Anchorage were related to COVID-19.

Projected Health Care Capacity

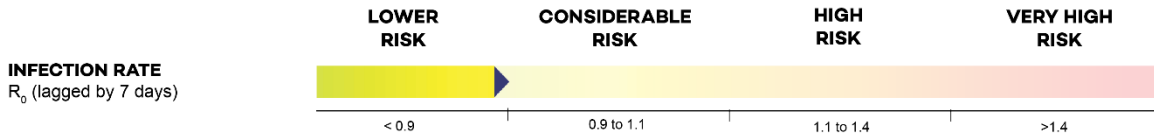
Projected Health Care Capacity: February 5, 2021



- **CDC COVID-19 Surge model:** The CDC COVID-19 Surge model has been updated with data through February 3. The model indicates sufficient ICU capacity to meet demand from COVID-19 cases under current conditions through at least the next three months. Increases in virus transmission after February 4 that are 50% or more above our current R_t could result in ICU capacity being exceeded in Anchorage within three months. This keeps us in the middle of the “Considerable Risk” category for the Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics (Appendix 1).

Infection Rate

Infection Rate: February 5, 2021



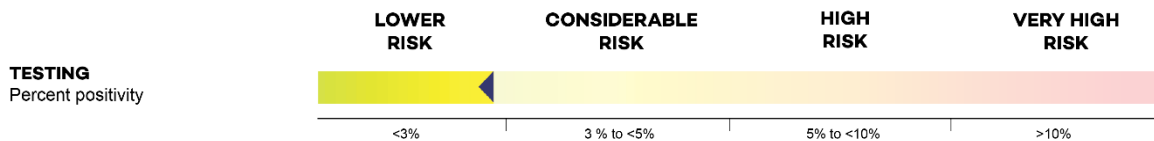
- An effective reproductive number (R_t) of 0.86 to 0.89 is a small increase from last week. This keeps us in the upper end of the “Lower Risk” category for the Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics (Appendix 1). See Table 3.

Table 3: Reproductive Number Estimates

Geography, Source	January 21	January 21 (updated)	January 28
Anchorage, COVID ActNow	0.80	0.84	0.89
Anchorage, SOA model (in-state residents only)	0.82	0.82	0.88
Alaska, COVID ActNow	0.81	0.85	0.86
Alaska, SOA model (in-state residents only)	0.87	0.83	0.84

Testing

Testing (Percent Positivity): February 5, 2021



- **Percent positivity:**
 - On average, between January 22 and January 28, 2.6% of COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests had positive test results, the same as last week. This moves us into the upper end of the “Low Risk” category for the Anchorage COVID-19 Health Risk Metrics (Appendix 1).

- The State reports test results according to the date when the sample was collected. This metric is lagged by seven days to allow time for most test results to be reported to the State.
- **Test volume:**
 - As shown in Table 4, the testing volume is similar to last week and remains well above the White House task force's target level.
 - Test volume is calculated using a seven-day lag to allow for sample processing time. Because some tests take more than five days to process, the average daily counts for more recent weeks will increase as more test results are received.
- **Test turnaround time:** As shown in Table 5, average test turnaround times are similar to or faster than last week.

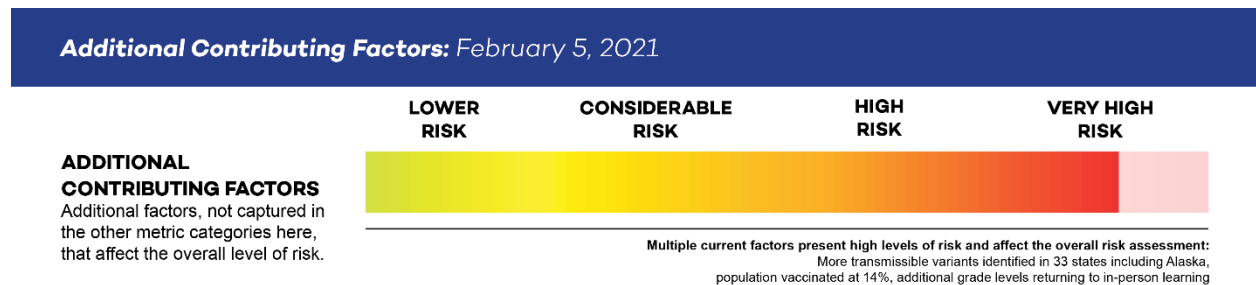
Table 4: Weekly Test Count Measures

Metric	January 8 - January 14	January 15 - January 21	January 22 - January 28	<i>White House Target (>2,000 per 100,000 population per week)</i>
Total tests in the week	25,808	22,687	22,594	>5,713
Average daily tests Per 100,000	1,291	1,135	1,130	>285

Table 5: Average Turnaround Time Measures

Lab	January 28	February 4	Change
Commercial	1.3	1.0	decrease
Alaska State Public Health Lab	1.0	1.0	same
Facility	0.7	0.7	same

Additional Community Factors



The following additional community factors present very high levels of risk currently within the Municipality:

- More transmissible COVID-19 variants have been identified in at least 33 states, including Alaska.
- COVID-19 vaccination is currently limited by eligibility criteria (frontline health care workers and individuals age 65 years and older) and by supply.
- The Anchorage School District (ASD) is in the process of returning to in-person learning with grades three thru six returning on Monday, February 8.

Public Health Capacity

Track and Follow New Cases and Contacts

- **Positive case outreach.**
 - MOA and State of Alaska (SOA) case interviewers aim to interview or leave a message for each new case within 24 hours of receiving the case assignment. To maximize the effectiveness of case investigations and contact tracing, cases closest to the date of

specimen collection are prioritized for interviews, including source investigation for the five days prior to specimen collection. Cases are closed if after two unsuccessful outreach attempts.

- Of the 237 Anchorage cases entered into CommCare with specimen collection dates between January 24 and January 30, 223 (95%) completed interviews. Of those cases with a completed interview, 214 (96%) were completed within five days of specimen collection.
- **New contacts.** There were 34 contacts newly registered into CommCare between January 28 and February 3, who were still awaiting investigation as of the close of business on February 4. This is a decrease of 15 outstanding contacts from the week before.

Transmission Trends

This section summarizes trends in infection and transmission found in CommCare or through feedback from the AHD COVID-19 response team.

- **Clusters.** There were 19 Anchorage cases opened in CommCare during the past week, January 28 through February 3, that were identified as part of a cluster. This included six cases at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center and 12 associated with outbreaks in the seafood industry.
- **Exposure source.** Of the 237 Anchorage cases entered into CommCare with specimen collection dates between January 24 and January 30, 99 (42%) specified an exposure type. The most commonly reported exposure types were household (48%), social (8%), employment (16%), and other (15%). Of these 237 cases, 212 (89%) provided information about occupation. Occupation was categorized into the pre-specified list, with the largest group falling into the Other category, followed by unemployed, student, retired, health care worker, corrections, and food service.
- **At-risk populations.** As of February 4, 2021, 466 cases have been identified within homeless shelters, supportive housing locations, and unsheltered homeless individuals, increasing two since last week's report. The number of hospitalizations remains at 25. The number of COVID-19 deaths increased by one to six following death certificate reviews. Regular screening continues at these locations with confirmed cases, and close contacts are moved into isolation and quarantine as soon as cases are confirmed.

Vaccination

- As of February 4, 2021, 40,968 first COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered within Anchorage, and 12,959 second doses. This is equivalent to 14.2% and 4.8% of the population, respectively, although we do not know for certainty that all vaccines administered within Anchorage are administered to Anchorage residents. See Table 6.
- These numbers may be underestimated as there is often a delay between vaccine administration and reporting to VacTrAK, and some vaccines may be administered by providers who do not report to VacTrAK. We encourage all vaccine providers to report vaccine administration to VacTrAK as quickly as possible.

- Vaccination rates vary by age, race, and ethnicity, as shown in Table 7. Thanks to the Indian Health Services allocation, more than one-third of Alaska Natives/American Indians have been vaccinated with at least one dose. Less than one percent of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders have been vaccinated. Non-Hispanics are three times more likely to have been vaccinated than Hispanics. Thirty-seven percent of people age 60 and older have been vaccinated.

Table 6: Vaccination Rates by Dose

Geography	Dose # 1	Percent with first dose	Series completed	Percent complete	Population
Alaska	99,814	13.7%	34,192	4.7%	99,814
Municipality Anchorage	40,968	14.2%	13,959	4.8%	40,968

Table 7: Vaccinations by Race, Ethnicity, and Age

Race	Cases			Vaccinations (At least one dose)			Anchorage Population	
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cases per 100</i>	<i>Vax</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Vax per 100</i>	<i>Pop</i>	<i>Percent</i>
American Indian or Alaska Native	3,522	20%	13.8	8,800	34%	34.4	25,556	9%
Asian	1,209	7%	4.7	988	4%	3.8	25,976	9%
Black or African American	852	5%	5.6	332	1%	2.2	15,207	5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	957	5%	11.9	73	0%	0.9	8,041	3%
White	6,469	36%	3.6	6,400	24%	3.5	180,389	63%
Other Race	2,896	16%	44.6	3,100	12%	47.8	6,490	2%
Two or More Races	1,899	11%	7.2	6,500	25%	24.7	26,341	9%
Ethnicity	Cases	Percent	Per 100	Vax	Percent	Rate	Pop	Percent
Hispanic	1,334	13%	4.9	841	24%	3.1	26,992	9%
Non-Hispanic	9,043	87%	3.5	2,600	76%	1.0	261,008	91%
Age	Cases	Percent	Per 100	Vax	Percent	Rate	Pop	Percent
0 to 9	1,520	6%	3.7	-	0%	-	40,630	14%
10 to 19	2,824	11%	7.7	696	2%	1.9	36,798	13%
20 to 29	5,437	22%	12.1	3,800	9%	8.5	44,884	16%
30 to 39	4,971	20%	11.0	6,300	15%	13.9	45,361	16%
40 to 49	3,488	14%	10.5	5,400	13%	16.3	33,156	12%
50 to 59	3,214	13%	8.8	5,800	14%	15.8	36,662	13%
60 to 69	2,336	9%	8.1	9,000	22%	31.4	28,701	10%
70 to 79	959	4%	5.9	7,200	18%	44.4	16,226	6%
80+	445	2%	8.0	2,700	7%	48.4	5,582	2%
All Cases	25,194	100%	8.7	40,896	100%	14.2	288,000	100%

Public Health Messages

Whether you are a football fan or just like to watch the commercials, please keep your Super Bowl parties small, or even better, virtual:

- We know the Super Bowl is a time when families and friends like to gather.
- Most of our community is not yet vaccinated, so we still need to keep our gathering small and socially distanced.
- If you gather and take off your mask to eat, please stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you – even if those others are your family and friends.

The COVID-19 vaccines protect you, your family, and your community.

- Individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.
- Currently, frontline health care workers and anyone age 65 years or older are eligible to be vaccinated.
- Do not wait to get vaccinated because you want to save vaccine for someone else. We have vaccination appointments available and more vaccine coming monthly. The faster we vaccinate those who are eligible, the faster we can open the next eligibility categories.
- The COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective at preventing serious disease and death from COVID-19. The vaccines also likely decrease the spread of COVID-19, although asymptomatic transmissions is still possible.
- The vaccines are safe, and you are safer after you have been vaccinated.

Testing identifies COVID-19 cases and helps reduce disease transmission.

- Individuals should get tested immediately at the first sign of any symptoms. Tests work best when obtained promptly after symptoms start. Testing early helps people know if they are positive quickly and helps prompt them to take immediate precautions to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus to others.
- More than half of COVID-19 transmission originates from asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases. CDC guidelines recommend regular testing for critical infrastructure workers and other groups at higher risk for COVID-19, even if they are asymptomatic. Anchorage has robust free testing available, and we encourage restaurant and grocery store workers, school staff, first responders, and healthcare workers to get tested weekly. We also encourage people who have attended large gatherings to get tested about a week after the gathering, or sooner if symptoms develop.
- Testing is required when returning to Alaska from out-of-state travel, and a second test is strongly encouraged approximately five days after returning to the state. **This two-test strategy will help us identify and contain new, more transmissible COVID-19 variants.**

To prevent unneeded serious illness and deaths, AHD urges everyone to do the following:

- **Stay home** if you feel sick, except to [get tested](#).
- **Wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet from others** in public.
- **Avoid crowds.** Keep gatherings small and outside as much as possible.