

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alaska COVID-19 and Influenza Weekly Case Update: August 21 – August 27, 2022

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From: Alaska Department of Health

To: Phillip A. Zavadil



Hello,

The Alaska Department of Health Weekly COVID-19 and Influenza Update has been updated with data from the week of August 21 - August 27, 2022 and can be viewed [here](#).

Key Findings:

- COVID-19 transmission remained widespread in most parts of Alaska during the week of August 21–August 27, 2022, with evidence for decreasing cases in most but not all areas.
- The number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has remained steady over the past seven weeks (see graph below illustrating hospital beds occupied by persons with COVID-19). Most [parts](#) of Alaska are at the “low” or “medium” COVID Community Level as defined by CDC. Learn more about CDC’s recommended prevention steps at each community level [here](#).
- Updated COVID-19 booster vaccines providing increased protection against currently circulating variants are now recommended for everyone ages 12 years and older who completed the primary series or received their most recent booster dose at least 2 months ago. These vaccines will become available in Alaska starting next week. Additionally, September and October are good times to receive an annual influenza vaccine. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to learn where COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are available. See the updates section below for more information.
- CDC no longer recommends quarantine of exposed persons in most settings, regardless of vaccination status. People with symptoms of COVID-19 should still get tested, and if they test positive, notify their contacts. Contacts should wear a mask and get tested. Updated guidance for [isolation](#) and for [what to do if exposed](#) is available. Learn more about CDC’s [Summary of Guidance for Minimizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Individual Persons, Communities, and Health Care Systems — United States, August 2022](#) and [CDC’s updated COVID-19 guidance practices](#).
- Respiratory viruses can circulate year-round in Alaska. Actions such as staying home when sick, washing hands, and improving ventilation can protect you, your family, and your community from COVID-19, influenza, and other pathogens.

Information and Resources:

- The State of Alaska [COVID-19 vaccines update page](#)
- The State of Alaska [COVID-19 information page](#) provides more information about the virus and how individuals and businesses can protect themselves and others from transmission.
- The DOH [Business and Employer Toolkits](#) page has communications resources for any organization that wants to keep workers, partners, clients, and customers informed about COVID-19.
- DOH [COVID-19 Communication Toolkit](#) provides PSAs, flyers, and social media graphics.
- Subscribe to the [DOH Insights blog](#) for behind-the-scenes news about Alaska's COVID-19 response and other efforts to protect the health and well-being of Alaskans.
- DOH offers free presentations upon request to groups about COVID-19, the vaccines, COVID prevention, or other health topics upon request. Learn more or request a presentation on our [Speaker's Bureau web page](#).
- For the most up-to-date case information, see the Alaska COVID-19 Information Hub dashboard: data.coronavirus.alaska.gov. All dashboard data are updated Wednesdays (except [holidays](#)).
- For DOH media inquiries, please contact clinton.bennett@alaska.gov.

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