



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SECOND WRANGELL COVID CASE IDENTIFIED BY AIRPORT SCREENING

WRANGELL, June 12, 2020 – On Friday, June 12, the Wrangell Unified Command was notified by the State of a second confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case in the community of Wrangell. The male patient arrived on Alaska Airlines from out of state and was immediately referred to the adjacent testing site for required COVID testing. He was instructed to isolate at home while awaiting results and the patient remains in quarantine.

“While it is unfortunate that an additional case has been identified, it is encouraging that we were able to identify this person as part of the airport screening process,” said City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW) Manager Lisa Von Barga. “SEARHC staff were able to quickly implement a system that will help us limit the community spread of COVID cases in Wrangell. The CBW asks that residents continue to act with an abundance of caution.”

Public Health Officials are conducting an investigation and completing contact tracing. Anyone who may have come in close contact with the individual will be notified and given instructions required by State health mandate. The CBW Emergency Operations Center has been meeting daily and is currently activated to address any community needs that arise.

COVID-19 testing is available in Wrangell to all patients who meet current symptomatic criteria, regardless of travel or exposure history. WMC and the AICS Clinic have established alternate screening areas for safe COVID-19 testing. Please call your provider to schedule an appointment.

Patients with chronic illnesses, or considered high-risk, should contact their provider immediately if they show symptoms. Low-risk patients are urged to self-isolate should they become sick.

Continued adherence to virus preventive practices is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, including frequent hand washing for the recommended 20 seconds; covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue; wearing masks when six-foot separation cannot be maintained; cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects; and getting an influenza vaccination. SEARHC and the CBW encourage residents to follow all local, state and federal mandates and practice social distancing. Visit covid19.alaska.gov, wrangellcovid19.org, and covid19.searhc.org for the latest coronavirus information, or to find the provider nearest you.

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