



UPDATE: Starting June 1, all Alaskans 12 years and older are included in the calculation of the state's vaccination percentage. This report has been updated to reflect these changes.

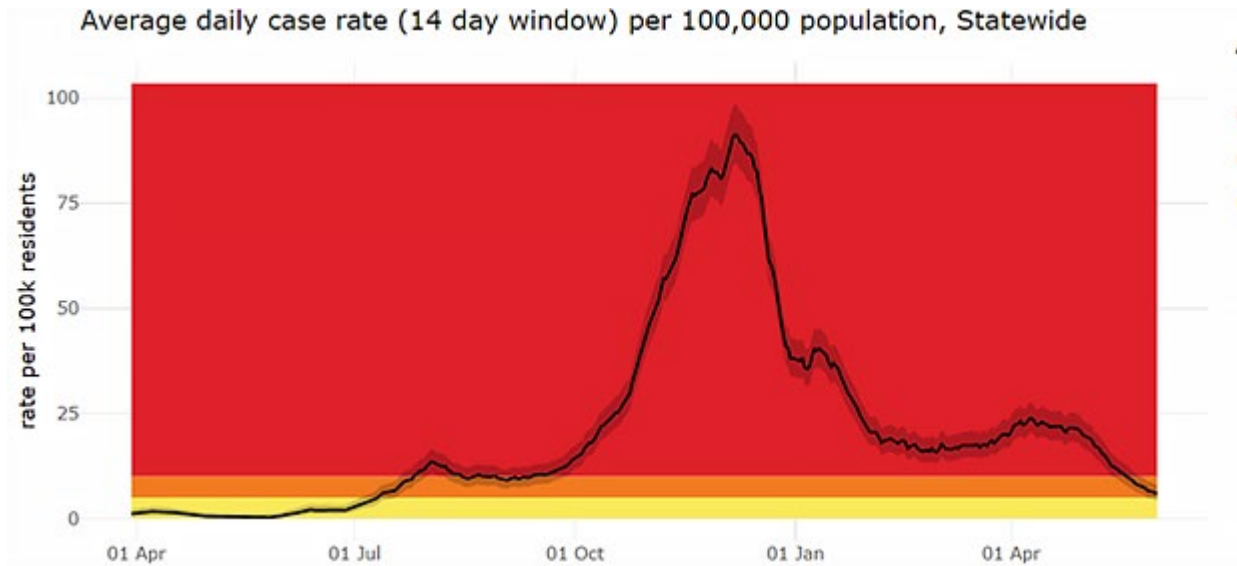
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services Weekly Case Update May 23-29, 2021

Decreasing Statewide transmission Rt 0.76	Intermediate Statewide alert status 6.0	Adequate Hospital capacity	Low Test positivity 1.01%	52% of Alaska and older vaccinated
Red- quickly increasing, Rt>1.2 Orange- increasing, Rt 1-1.2 Yellow-decreasing, Rt<1	Red- 14-day average case rate per 100,000 people >10 Orange- 5-10 Yellow- <5	Red- <3 weeks until beyond capacity Orange- 3-6 weeks Yellow- >6 weeks	Red->5% Orange- 2-5% Yellow- <2%	At least c Estimate populatio older of t the US D Labor

Brief Status Report

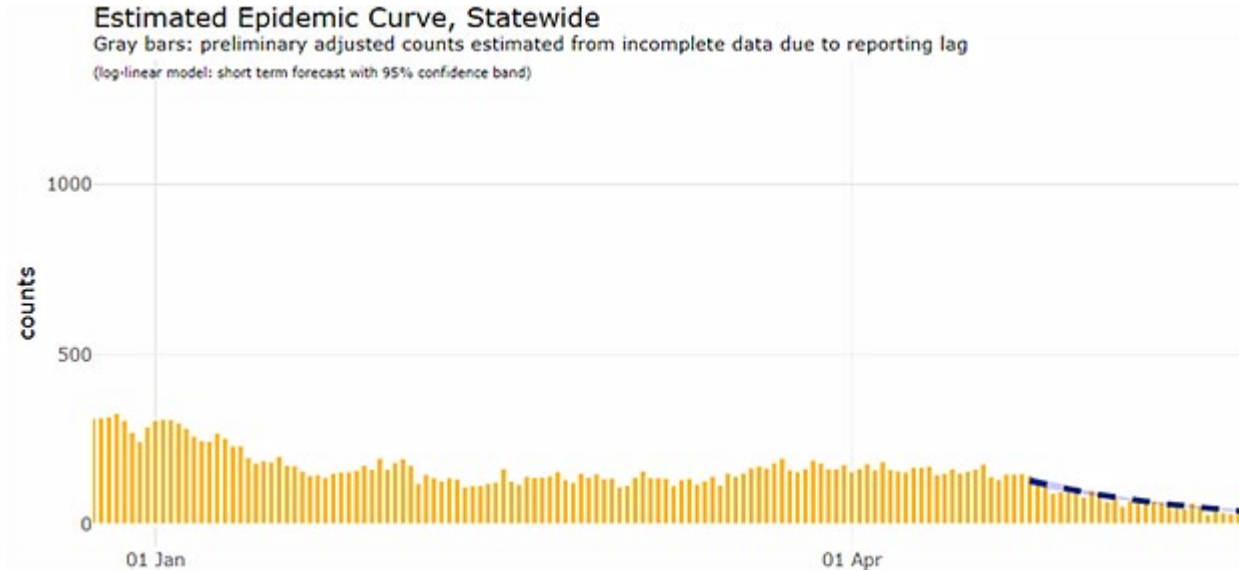
- The statewide average daily case rate continued decreasing. The current 14-day average case rate per 100,000 people is similar to levels last seen in July 2020.
- Since January 1, 2021, >98% of all COVID-19 hospitalizations in Alaska have been among people who were unvaccinated.
- 52% of Alaskans aged 12 years and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Alaska is currently [the twenty-eighth most vaccinated state per capita](#) for adults aged ≥18.
- As of May 12, all Alaskans aged ≥12 years are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is available at no cost.

- Starting June 1, anyone, [including nonresident tourists](#), arriving at the Juneau, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, or Anchorage airports is able to get a dose of vaccine free of charge at the airport



Case Trends and Predictions

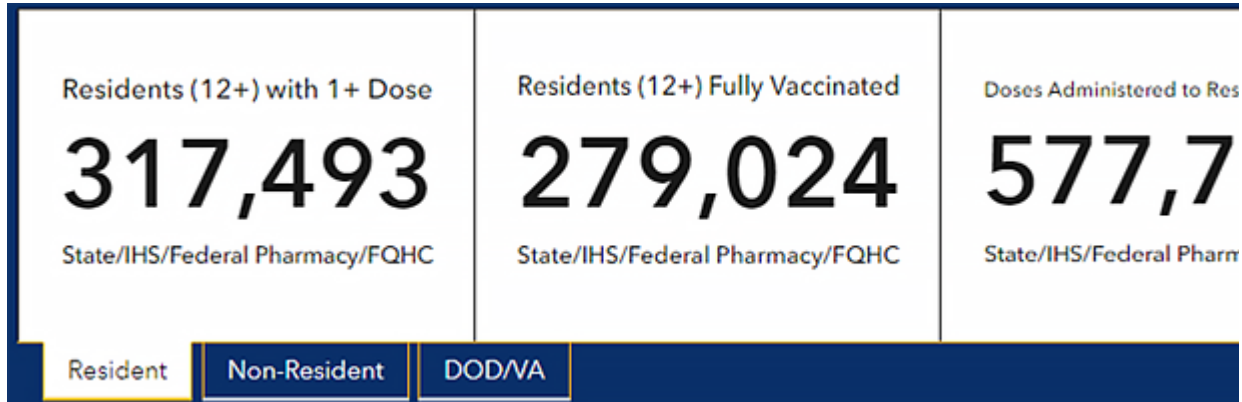
- 261 cases were reported in Alaskans last week. This is a 32% decrease from the week before.
- Case rates continued to increase in the Interior region while rates decreased from last week in the Southern Southeast region.
- Case rates decreased in 7 of the 11 behavioral health regions this week. Two regions saw minimal increases in case rates but still have <5 cases per 100,000 population.
- The estimated statewide daily growth rate as of June 1 is -4.3% and new cases are expected to halve every 16 days based on current modeling.



Regional Case Trends

Behavioral Health Region	Case rates Apr 25– May 1	Case rates May 2– May 8	Case rates May 9–May 15	Case rates May 16–May 22	Ca ra M M
Anchorage Municipality	13.0	11.2	8.2	5.4	3.
Fairbanks North Star Borough	50.1	33.5	15.6	8.3	6.
Interior Region except Fairbanks	17.6	15.0	14.0	19.4	2.
Juneau City and Borough	7.2	8.8	7.2	3.8	3.
Kenai Peninsula Borough	12.4	9.0	7.8	6.8	3.
Matanuska-Susitna Region	28.1	22.4	14.8	8.7	5.
Northern Southeast Region	3.5	4.9	7.7	5.6	4.
Northwest Region	7.6	6.3	5.0	3.2	4.
Southern Southeast Region	19.9	32.9	54.2	58.2	3.
Southwest Region	4.3	3.3	2.5	3.2	3.
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region	14.6	7.2	6.9	9.6	9.
Statewide	19.4	15.3	11.2	8.2	6.

Vaccination Status



Reported vaccinations as of June 1, 2021.

- Anyone aged ≥ 12 years who lives or works in Alaska is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- On June 1, Alaska was [the twenty-eighth most vaccinated state per capita](#) for adults aged ≥ 18 years. The Alaska [vaccine dashboard](#) is available online for more up-to-date data.

Regional Vaccine Trends:

- For May 9-May 24, the Percent of Alaskans aged 16+ who have received one or more dose of vaccine
- For June 1, the percent of Alaskans aged 12+ who have received one or more dose of vaccine. This percentage may be lower than previous weeks since the number of persons eligible for the vaccine increased since those 12+ are now eligible.

Borough/Census Area	As of May 9	As of May 16	As of May 24	As of June 1
Aleutians East Borough	61.1%	66.7%	77.7%	81.7%
Aleutians West Census Area	57.4%	58.1%	63.1%	63.7%
Anchorage Municipality	55.5%	56.3%	57.3%	55.9%
Bethel Census Area	69.9%	70.4%	71.4%	67.7%
Bristol Bay plus Lake and Peninsula	76.1%	77.4%	78.1%	76.5%
Denali Borough	55.6%	56.0%	58.8%	60.5%
Dillingham Census Area	52.8%	53.1%	53.8%	56.2%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	42.6%	44.0%	45.2%	44.4%
Haines Borough	66.2%	66.6%	67.2%	66.3%
Juneau City and Borough	71.4%	72.6%	74.0%	72.8%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	43.6%	44.2%	45.0%	43.6%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	58.5%	59.4%	61.2%	59.5%
Kodiak Island Borough	62.3%	62.7%	63.7%	61.8%

Kusilvak Census Area	69.8%	70.7%	72.2%	67.4%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	35.7%	36.5%	37.3%	35.6%
Nome Census Area	73.6%	74.4%	76.1%	75.7%
North Slope Borough	34.4%	34.7%	35.3%	34.5%
Northwest Arctic Borough	57.8%	58.3%	59.4%	56.7%
Petersburg Borough	75.8%	76.2%	77.0%	62.1%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	49.2%	50.1%	51.8%	59.3%
Sitka City and Borough	70.4%	71.1%	72.1%	70.0%
Skagway Municipality	78.7%	78.7%	79.2%	78.3%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	30.8%	31.2%	31.6%	29.9%
Wrangell City and Borough	58.5%	58.7%	58.9%	57.9%
Yakutat plus Hoonah-Angoon	71.8%	72.6%	73.7%	73.3%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	75.2%	75.6%	76.1%	71.9%
Statewide	51.7%	52.9%	53.7%	52.0%

- To schedule your vaccine appointment visit covidvax.alaska.gov or call 907-646-3322. The call line is staffed Monday-Friday from 9AM-6:30PM and 9AM-4:30PM on weekends.

New Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

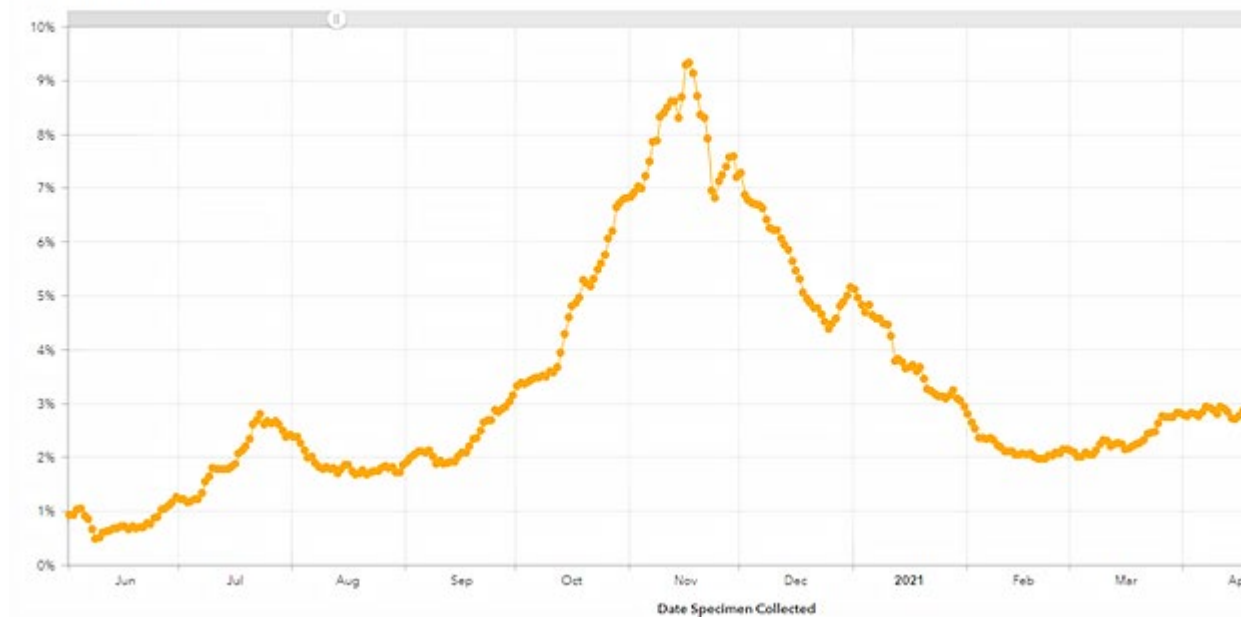
- During the week of May 23 through May 29, 2021, 261 cases were reported in Alaskans. This is a 32% decrease compared to the week prior, for a total of 67,458 cases.
- Cumulative hospitalizations increased to 1,561 with 3 reported as occurring this week. Hospitalization reports often lag and only 1,553 hospitalizations were reported at this time last week, so there are 8 hospitalizations newly reported this week including ones that began during previous weeks.
- No deaths were reported this week (362 total). It is common to take more than a week for a death to be reported, and deaths that occurred during May 23-May 29 may be reported in the future after death certificates are reviewed.
- 12 new nonresident cases were identified this week for a total of 2,812 cases.

Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

- No new vaccine breakthrough cases were reported during May 23-May 29.

- Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID are those detected in a person who is more than 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series. As of May 1, 2021, [CDC changed reporting of VB cases](#) to be only those associated with hospitalization or death.
- From January 1–May 24, 2021, Alaska has recorded one death and nine hospitalizations resulting from a VB infection. These counts are provisional and subject to change as more data are compiled. In that same time frame, a total of 20,997 cases, 470 hospitalizations, and 98 deaths were reported. 98.1% of all hospitalizations to date were people who are unvaccinated.
- Specimens from VB infections (regardless of severity) are prioritized for sequencing and described in the weekly [Alaska Genomics Report](#)

Statewide Percentage of Daily Tests with Positive Results
(Seven day rolling average)



Variant Tracking

- On May 31 the [WHO released updated nomenclature systems](#) for naming and tracking SARS-CoV-2 variant strains. Though not yet updated in the Alaska COVID Genomic Surveillance Report, the variants are listed below with their new WHO labels.
- The most recent [Alaska COVID Genomic Surveillance report](#) was released on May 27
- Cumulative totals of variants identified in Alaska:

ts of Concern	Cases Identified	Change From Last Week	First Identified in Alaska
(B.1.1.7)	179	+38	20 December 2020
a (P.1)	22	+6	8 February 2021
3.1.351)	5	+1	20 March 2021

Epsilon (B.1.427)	7	+2	30 March 2021
Epsilon (B.1.429)	118	+4	24 December 2020

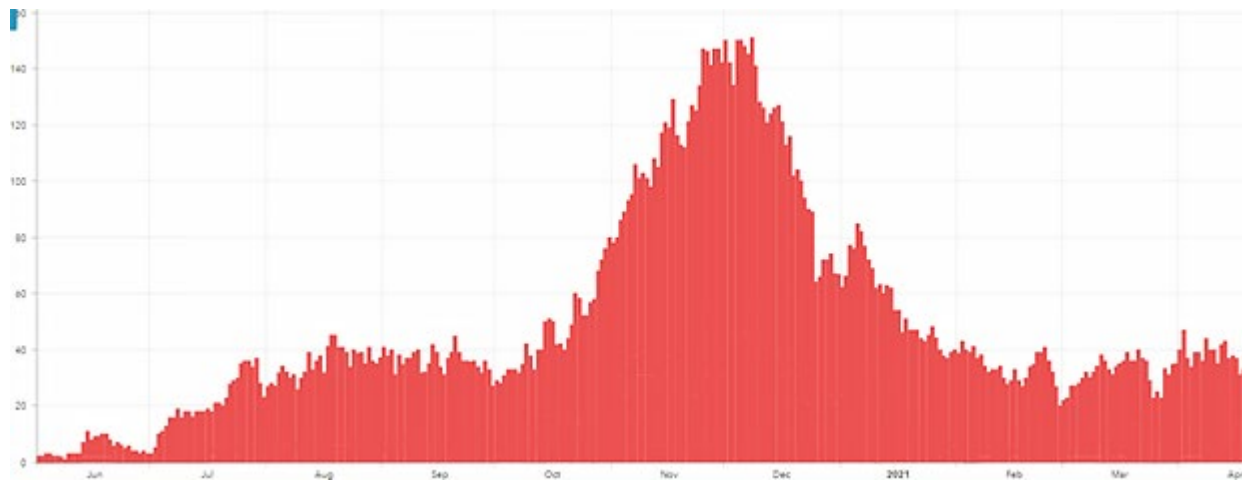
ts of Interest	Cases Identified	Change From Last Week	First Identified in Alaska
.1.526)	16	+4	4 February 2021
1.525)	1	0	16 March 2021
'2)	4	0	27 January 2021

- Alaska’s Public Health Laboratories [continue to monitor for variants of concern](#) and interest

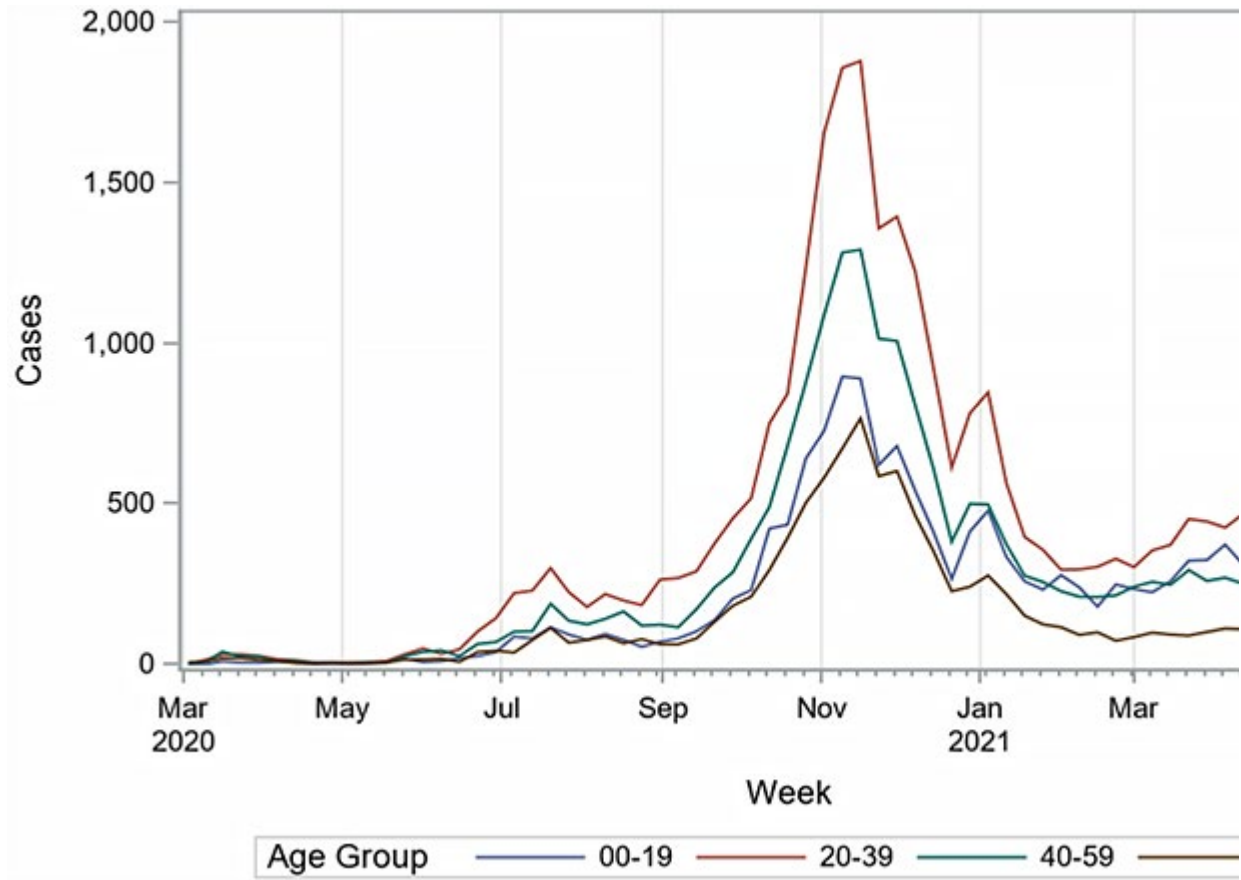
Health Care Capacity

- On June 1, 21 Alaskans with confirmed COVID-19 were hospitalized and 6 were reported to require a mechanical ventilator.

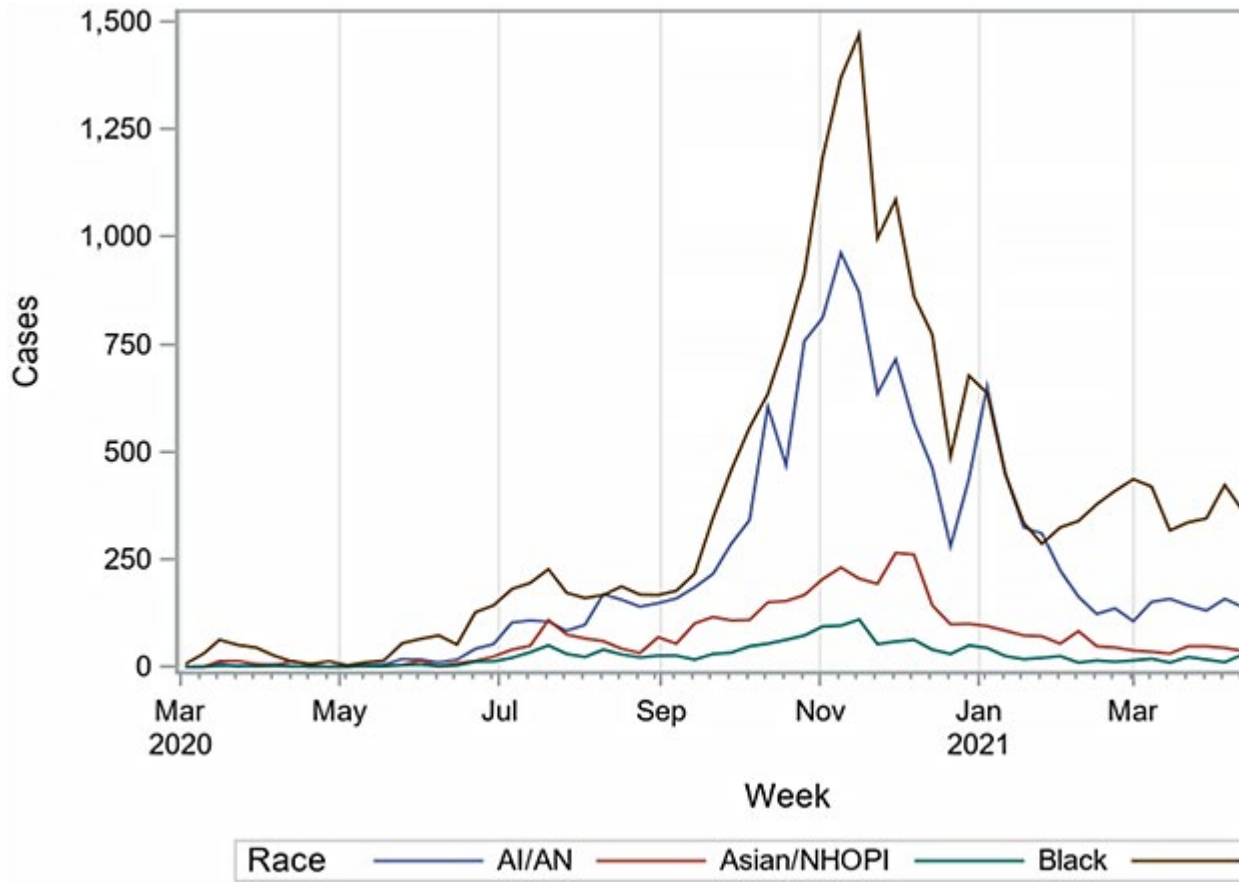
Total Confirmed COVID-19 Beds Occupied



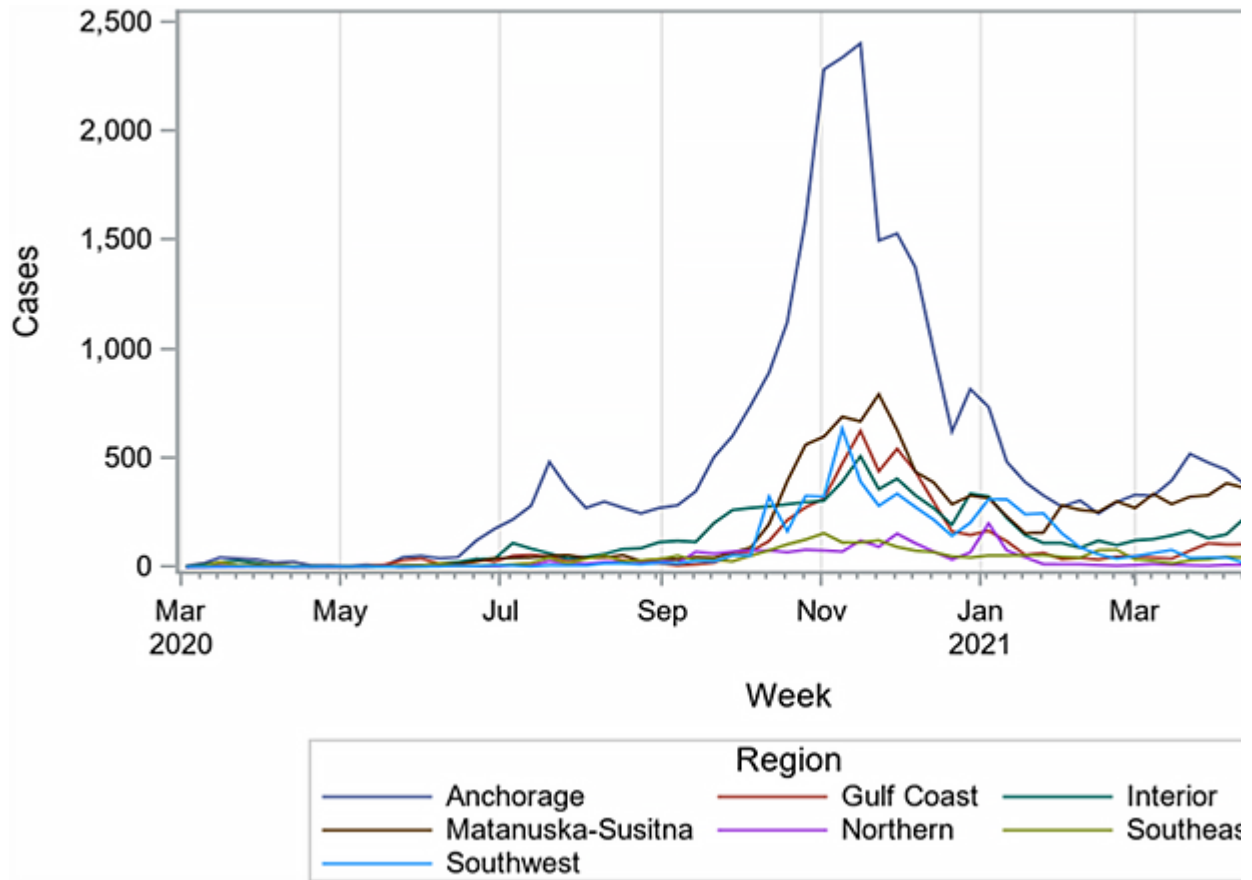
Cases by Week Reported and Age Group



Cases by Week Reported and Race



Cases by Week Reported and Region



Additional informational resources:

- The State of Alaska COVID-19 [vaccine status 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
- For the most up-to-date case information, see the Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub dashboard: updated Monday – Friday at data.coronavirus.alaska.gov
- For DHSS media inquiries, please contact clinton.bennett@alaska.gov