

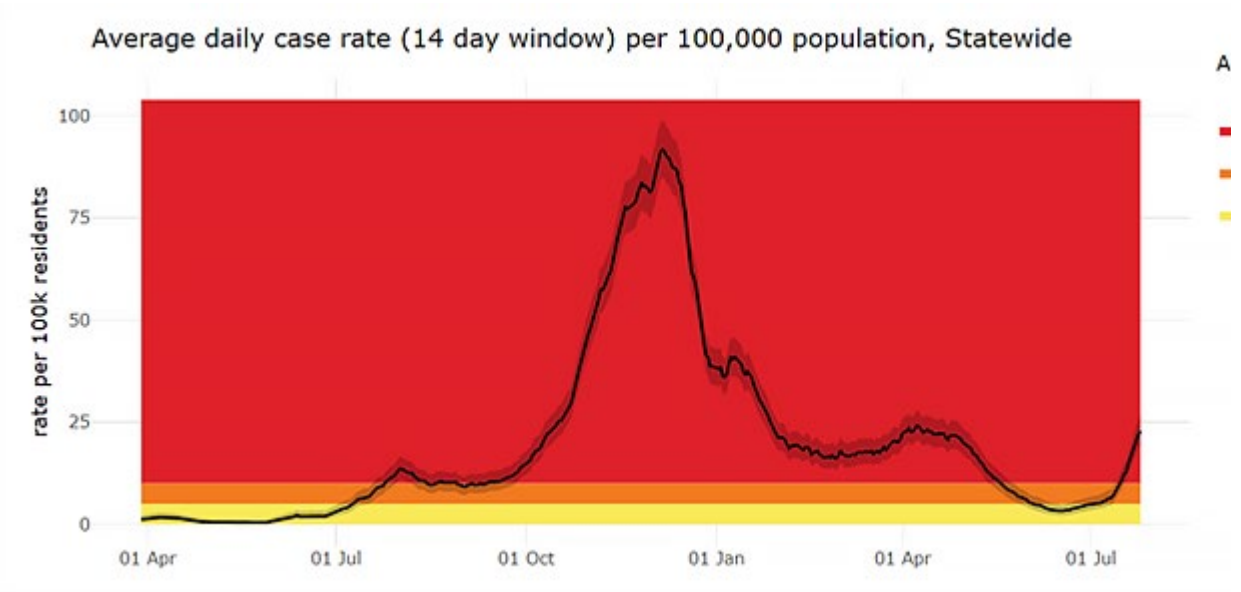


**Alaska Department of Health & Social Services Weekly Case Update
July 18 — July 24, 2021**

HIGH	HIGH	Limited	Intermediate	57.2
Statewide transmission R_t 1.42	Statewide alert status 22.8	Hospital capacity	Test positivity 5.2%	Alaskans older are
Red- $R_t > 1.2$ Orange- R_t 1-1.2 Yellow- $R_t < 1$	14-day average cases reported per 100,000 population Red > 10 Orange- 5-10 Yellow- < 5	Multiple hospitals in Anchorage were at surge capacity the weekend of July 24th and 25th due to high volumes of both COVID and non-COVID patients.	Red- > 5% Orange- 2-5% Yellow- < 2%	This inclu with at le dose. Est populatio older of (t the AK D Labor & 't Developr

Case Trends

- The number of COVID-19 cases in Alaska continued last week on a clear upwards trajectory.



- 1,358 cases were reported in Alaskans last week. This is a 55% increase from the week before. This is the sixth week in a row of week-over-week increases.
- Increases in cases were widely distributed across the state, with increases in multiple parts of Southeast Alaska (especially Sitka and Juneau), nearly all parts of the state on the road system (including Kenai Peninsula Borough, Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the Copper River Census Area), and some parts of rural Alaska (e.g., Bethel Census Area and Kodiak Island Borough).
- The Delta variant has become the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant in Alaska. This variant transmits more easily than other variants.
- Currently available COVID vaccines will help protect you, your family, and your community against COVID-19, including the Delta variant. Getting vaccinated now is more important than ever. Avoid crowds and delay travel until you are fully vaccinated.
- All regions of Alaska are now at the “orange” or “red” Alert Level. All persons, including fully vaccinated persons, should wear a mask when in indoor public spaces.

Regional Alert Level Trends

- Alert levels are based on the daily average number of reported cases over the past 14 days per 100,000 population.

	Alert Level July	Alert Level July	Alert Level July 19	Alert Level July 26
Behavioral Health Region	7	12	17.3	25.1
Anchorage Municipality	7.6	9.4	17.3	25.1

Fairbanks North Star Borough	0.8	1.3	2.4	6.7
Interior Region except Fairbanks	3.1	7.7	19.4	40.3
Juneau City and Borough	3.1	3.6	6.7	24.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	3.5	7.0	18.7	35.4
Matanuska-Susitna Region	3.1	2.8	5.5	11.9
Northern Southeast Region	5.6	13.7	51.1	99.1
Northwest Region	6.6	3.2	2.6	7.1
Southern Southeast Region	2.9	4.0	4.0	6.1
Southwest Region	**	1.5	6.3	20.5
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region	17.6	14.0	12.4	22.3
Statewide	5.2	6.4	12.7	22.8

** Rates based on <6 observations are not reported

Vaccination Status

- Anyone aged 12+ in Alaska is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you have received an initial dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, be sure to get your second dose too. Evidence suggests two doses of an mRNA vaccine are more effective than one dose of an mRNA vaccine, especially against emerging variants of concern.
- Vaccinated persons with immunocompromising conditions should discuss with their health care providers the need for personal protective measures.
- To schedule your vaccine appointment visit covidvax.alaska.gov or call 907-646-3322.
- You can also visit vaccines.gov or find clinics in your area by texting your zip code to GETVAX (438829) in English, or VACUNA (822862) for Spanish.
- The Alaska [vaccine dashboard](#) is available online for the most up-to-date data.

Regional Vaccine Coverage:

This is the percent of Alaskans aged 12+ who received one or more dose of vaccine.

Borough/Census Area	July 27
Aleutians East Borough	86.8%

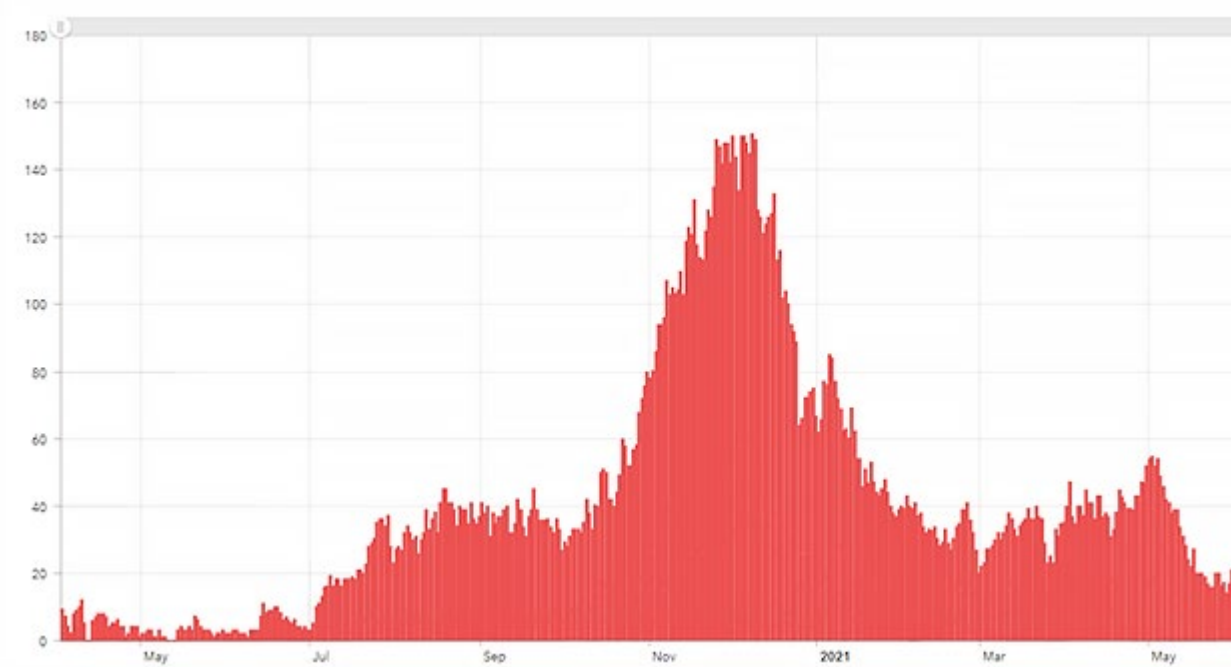
Aleutians West Census Area	70.9%
Anchorage Municipality	70.0%
Bethel Census Area	73.5%
Bristol Bay plus Lake and Peninsula	89.5%
Denali Borough	66.8%
Dillingham Census Area	60.0%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	49.4%
Haines Borough	69.9%
Juneau City and Borough	78.1%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	47.2%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	66.2%
Kodiak Island Borough	65.8%
Kusilvak Census Area	78.2%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	39.9%
Nome Census Area	81.3%
North Slope Borough	37.4%
Northwest Arctic Borough	62.2%
Petersburg Borough	65.1%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	66.8%
Sitka City and Borough	75.8%
Skagway Municipality	82.5%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	32.9%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	61.9%
Wrangell City and Borough	61.6%
Yakutat plus Hoonah-Angoon	77.3%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	78.1%
Statewide	57.2%

New Hospitalizations and Deaths

- Cumulative hospitalizations increased by 27 to 1,694. Hospitalization reports often lag when a case was initially reported.
- 8.9% of hospitalized patients in Alaska had COVID-19 as of July 27, 2021.
- On July 24, 2021, there were 97 persons with COVID-19 in AK hospitals, which is a 64% increase relative to the week before when there were 59 persons hospitalized.

- The cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths among Alaska residents increased by 3 to 377. It is common to take some time for a death to be reported and verified, and deaths that occurred during July 18-July 24 may be reported in the future after death certificates are reviewed.

Total Confirmed COVID Beds Occupied



Variant Tracking

- The most recent [Alaska COVID Genomic Surveillance report](#) was released on July 27th.

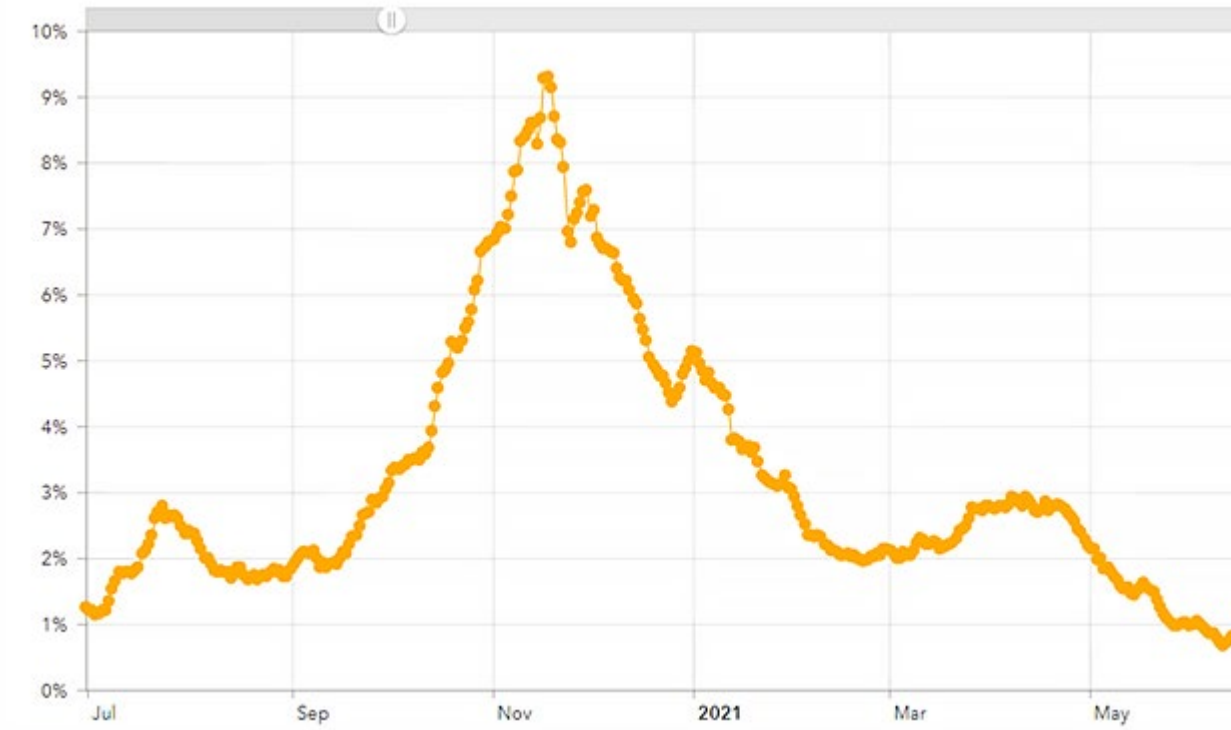
Variants of Concern	Cases Identified	Change from Previous Report	First Identified
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	416	+5	20 December 2020
Beta (B.1.351)	7	0	20 March 2021
Gamma (P.1/P.1.1/P.1.2)	71	+1	8 February 2021
Delta (B.1.617.2-like)	251	+137	30 May 2021
Variants of Interest	Cases Identified	Change from Previous Report	First Identified
Epsilon (B.1.427/429)	139	0	24 December 2020

Eta (B.1.525)	1	0	16 March 2021
Iota (B.1.526)	30	0	4 February 2021
Zeta (P.2)	4	0	27 January 2021

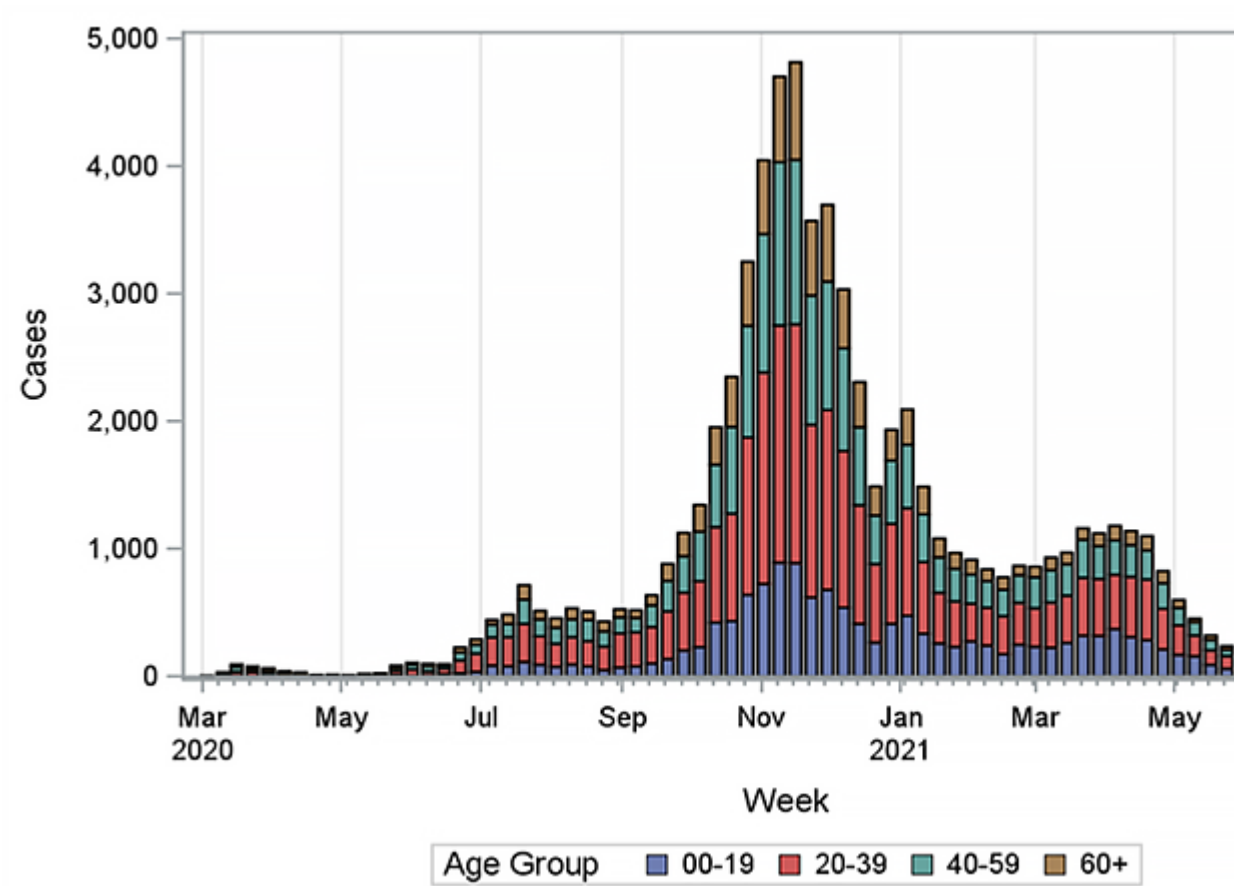
Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

- Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID-19 are those detected in a person who is at least 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series.
- From January 1–July 24, 2021, three deaths, 37 hospitalizations, and 1,324 cases with a VB infection were reported among Alaska residents. These counts are provisional and subject to change as more data are compiled. In that same time frame, a total of 22,886 cases, 589 hospitalizations, and 89 deaths were reported.
- 94% of all cases, 94% of all hospitalizations, and 97% of all deaths to date were in people who were not fully vaccinated.
- Specimens from VB infections are described in the weekly [Alaska Genomics Report](#).

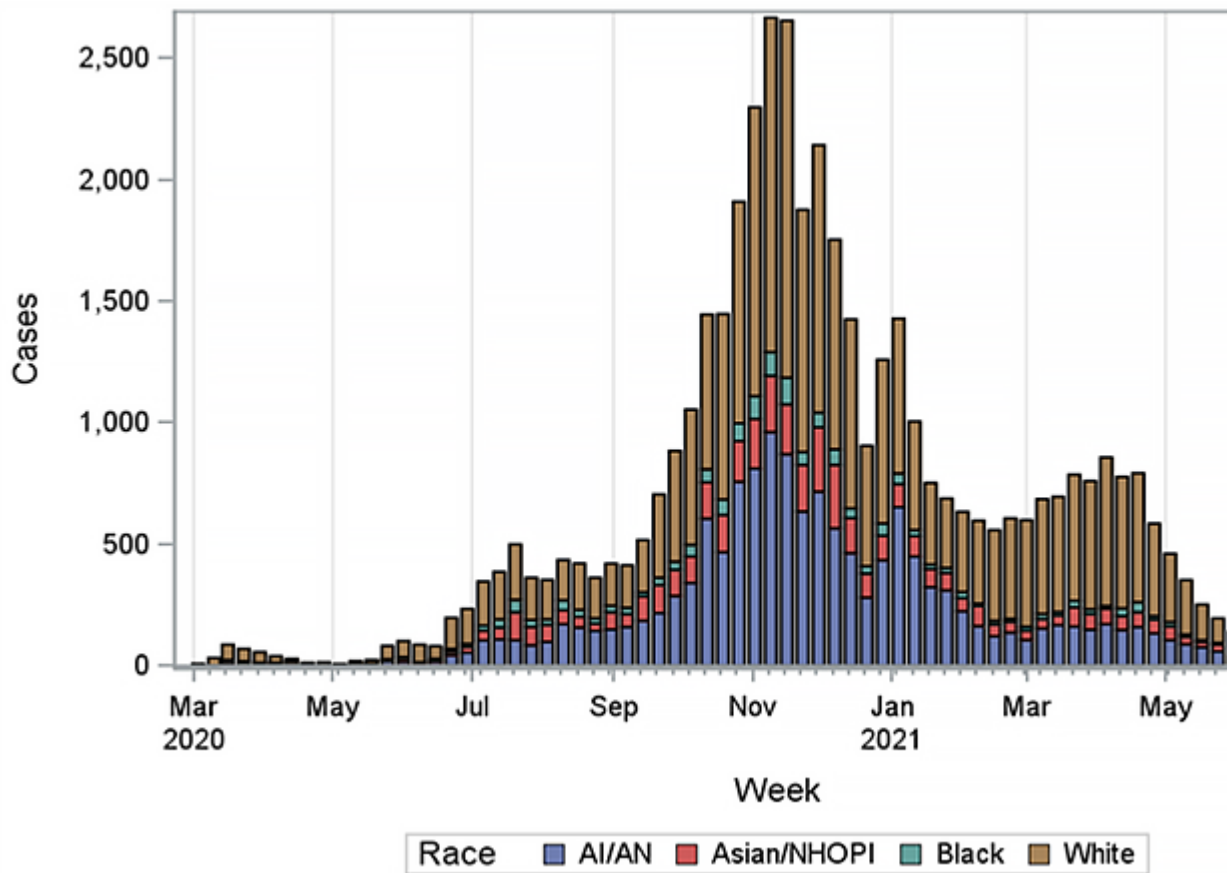
Statewide Percentage of Daily Tests with Positive Results (Seven day rolling average)



Cases by Week of Onset and Age



Cases by Week of Onset and Race



Additional informational resources:

- 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