

# Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



## Week of August 2-6, 2021

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### **AFN President Kitka Meets With Vice President Harris and Interior Secretary Haaland**

AFN President Julie Kitka met with U. S. Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on July 27 at the White House.

The in-person meeting focused on voting rights and obstacles to Alaska Native and American Indian access to the ballot box.

See more on the meeting on the Vice President's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

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## **AFN Shares Native Community's Top Priorities with the White House**

AFN Vice President Ben Mallott last week delivered to senior officials at the White House AFN's 2021 federal policy priorities. The document, based on AFN Convention resolutions and AFN board actions, included in-depth background and recommendations on climate change, subsistence, energy, rebuilding the economy, and public safety.

Click [here](#) to read the document.

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## **AFN Meets with National Security Council**

In preparation for tribal consultations to follow later this month, representatives of the White House National Security Council and the Department of the Interior met with AFN President Julie Kitka, Vice President Ben Mallott, and Communications Director Jeff Silverman on July 15 regarding the Biden Administration's plans to update the 2013 Arctic National Security Strategy.

Click [here](#) to read AFN's letter to the White House outlining the priorities AFN shared in the meeting.

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## **AFN Convenes Workshop on \$1 Trillion Federal Infrastructure Bill**

Last week AFN convened a workshop on Native provisions in the bipartisan \$1 trillion federal infrastructure bill.

The summary document used in the workshop is available by clicking [here](#).

Another workshop will be scheduled after final passage.

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## **AFN Convenes Second Broadband Connectivity Workshop**

AFN convened a final technical assistance workshop on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Tribal Connectivity Broadband Program on August 6. The video recording of the workshop will be available next week.

You can view a video recording of the first workshop convened July 6 by [clicking here](#), and you can download the presentation slides by [clicking here](#).

Every Alaska Native tribe and most Native corporations and organizations are eligible for the mandatory minimum \$500,000, non-competitive grant. Native tribes and entities are also eligible for \$25,000 or more to cover the costs of preparing your grant application.

These workshops were intended to help you begin work on your application right away. Native entities are eligible for \$25,000 or more to cover the costs of preparing your grant application.

Applications are due September 1, 2021.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

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**COVID-19 Update**



Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy on Wednesday urged more Alaskans to get vaccinated as daily COVID-19 case counts continued to increase and communities across the state experience outbreaks.

“There is a safe, free, and widely available tool to put COVID-19 in the rearview mirror,” Dunleavy said in a statement. “That tool is the vaccine.”

According to Alaska’s Department of Health and Social Services [dashboard](#), now being updated five days a week, the state reported 338 new cases of COVID-19 and two new deaths on August 4.



Data Dashboard Summary as of Aug 6, 2021

## Data Dashboard Daily Summary

New Resident Cases Yesterday <b>309</b> Updated Daily by Noon	Total Resident Cases <b>74,244</b> Cumulative (includes recovered cases)	Currently Hospitalized <b>101</b> Confirmed COVID Positive	Total Resident <b>390</b> Deaths Statewide
New Nonresident Cases Yesterday <b>18</b> Updated Daily by Noon	Total Nonresident Cases <b>3,342</b> Cumulative (includes recovered cases)	Total Hospitalizations <b>1,811</b> Cumulative (does not reflect current stays)	Total Nonresident <b>8</b> Deaths Statewide

**Alaska's statewide COVID-19 alert level remains high**, as determined by the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Unfortunately, new cases and hospitalizations are on the rise mainly due to the delta variant that is sweeping across the U.S. and the globe.

TAKE ACTION – Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community and to reopen our economy. Check with your local health care provider to get the facts about vaccines, wearing masks and protecting your families. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, [find a vaccine](#).

CDC's new guidelines on safer activities for you and your family:

- [If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic.
- To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).
- Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.

- Learn more about the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html).

There is a lot of misinformation out there, particularly on social media. Here is a great page for [mythbusting](#).

For more information about vaccines, visit [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov).