

Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



Week of August 16-20, 2021

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AFN LAUNCHES NAVIGATOR PROJECT

AFN has launched its Navigator Project to help Alaska Natives navigate the myriad federal and state agencies and departments distributing funds and providing services. AFN is rapidly onboarding federal policy and program experts and analysts to help tribes, regional and village for-profit Native corporations, regional Native not-for-profit organizations and tribal consortia, and individual beneficiaries learn and take advantage of tribal provisions in the several once-in-a-lifetime federal spending bills.

“Last week the White House Domestic Policy Council recognized the challenges of the flood of different programs and requirements and invited AFN to identify 15-20 difficult challenges, the related department and agency, and key senior federal officials,” said Julie Kitka, AFN President. “The White House will use the information AFN provides to organize short webinars for the delegates at the 2021 AFN Convention. This extra help is appreciated, as our Navigator Project works side by side with the Administration and the State of Alaska.”

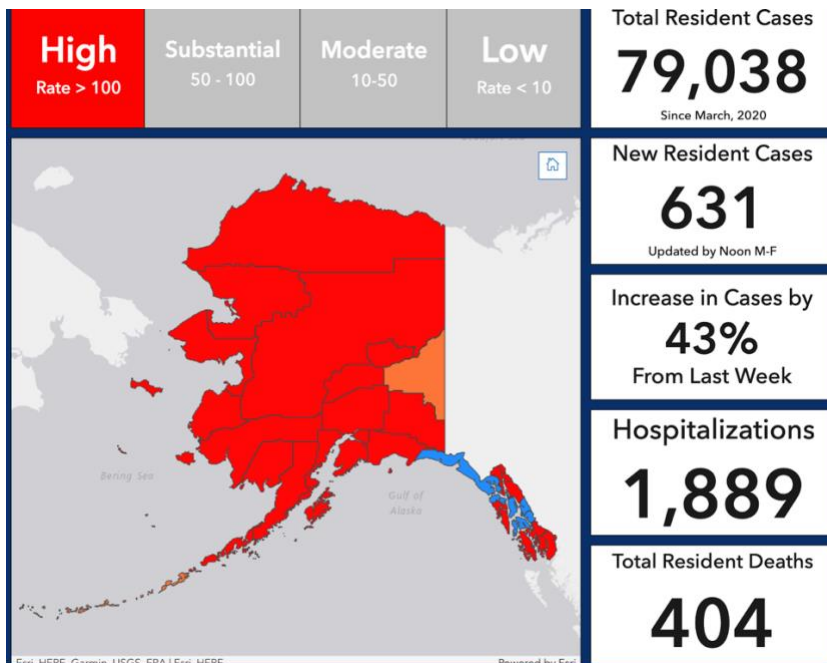
The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in late June directed \$2.5 million in state CARES Act funds to AFN for the establishment of the program.

AFN BOARD TO DECIDE ON AUGUST 24 WHETHER TO HOLD AN IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

Given the surge of COVID-19 cases resulting from the delta variant globally and in Alaska, and the growing pressure on Alaska’s health care system, the AFN board of directors will convene on August 24 to decide whether to hold an in-person convention at the Dena’ina Center in Anchorage on October 21-23, a virtual convention as we did last year, or postpone the Convention to an in-person gathering in December.

Click [here](#) to review the decision brief with data, CDC guidance, pros and cons.

COVID-19 UPDATE



Alaska DHSS Data Dashboard Summary as of Aug 20, 2021:

Vaccine Doses Given	Current Hospitalizations	Total Resident Cases	Total Resident Deaths
682,282	125	79,479	406

ALASKA'S STATEWIDE COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL REMAINS HIGH

New cases and hospitalizations are on the rise in Alaska 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.

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.