

Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



Week of September 20-24, 2021

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AFN Redistricting Project — Public Hearings on Draft Plans Around the State in Next Two Weeks

The Alaska Redistricting Board has adopted six draft maps to date, two presented by board members Nicole Borromeo and Bethany Marcum and four third-party maps submitted by a coalition of Doyon, Ltd., Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Sealaska, Inc., and Ahtna, as well as Alaskan's for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER), Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR), and the Senate Minority Caucus.

The Board will begin their public hearings on the six maps in Juneau on September 27, Haines on September 28, Sitka on September 29, Valdez on September 30, and Anchorage on October 4, 2021.

For more information on these hearings and to stay up to date with Board notices please visit www.akredistricting.org. For more information on public hearings, click on the image below or [here](#).

[Public Hearing in Anchorage](#)

The Board will be hosting an Open House on October 4 starting at 4:30pm - Anchorage Legislative Information Office. [See Public Notice >](#)

[Public Hearing in Valdez](#)

The Board will be hosting an Open House on September 30 starting at 4:30pm - Valdez Convention and Civic Center. [See Public Notice >](#)

[Public Hearing in Sitka](#)

The Board will be hosting an Open House on September 29 starting at 3:30pm - Westmark Sitka Hotel. [See Public Notice >](#)

[Public Hearing in Haines](#)

The Board will be hosting an Open House on September 28 starting at 2:30pm in the Haines Assembly Chambers. [See Public Notice >](#)

[Public Hearing in Juneau](#)

The Board will be hosting an Open House on September 27 starting at 4:30pm at Centennial Hall in Juneau. [See Public Notice >](#)

The One Person, One Vote principle refers to the legal rule that one's voting power should be equivalent to another's within the same state. In other words, all voters should have equal voting power.

LEADERSHIP IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

An AFN Forum - October 19, 2021

Dear Alaska Native Leader or Tribal/Corporate/Non-Profit Employee,

You're invited to our next forum, "Leadership In Uncertain Times," on October 19, 2021. Hosted by the Alaska Federation of Natives, the "Leadership In Uncertain Times" forum aims to take stock of where we are now in the COVID 19 pandemic, rapid change continuing, and critical decisions before us.

The forum will include an assessment of the impact of COVID 19 and future scenario forecasts. An update on the pandemic projection, economic growth, variants, and potential future mutations, ultimately leading to "when will we know that the pandemic is over." Further focus on what comes next? How does leadership matter? Can we pause and assess where we are today and identify the most critical priorities in working together?

Click [HERE](#) to download our forum abstract for more information.

When: October 19, 2021 (Virtual)

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Alaska time

Honorary Hosts:

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski

U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan

U.S. Congressman Don Young

Governor Mike Dunleavy, State of Alaska

Special Guest Speakers:

Lieutenant General David Krumm, Commander, Alaskan NORAD Region,
Alaskan Command, and Eleventh Air Force

Rodger Baker, Senior Vice President, Strategic Analysis, Stratfor

More to be announced soon!

[Click here for more information and to register online](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Alaska Reports 21 COVID-19 Deaths, and Now Has
Among the Nation's Highest Rates for Recent Fatalities



Alaska, already the state with the country’s worst COVID-19 recent case rate, now also holds [one of the country’s highest rates](#) of recently reported deaths. The state reported another 21 deaths Monday after adding 44 virus-related fatalities — many from last month — to the total last week.

The delta variant and the state’s sub-average vaccination rate are driving a rapid surge in new infections and taxing a hospital system made vulnerable by Alaska’s isolation from other states and the challenges of caring for patients at far flung medical facilities in rural communities off the road system.

Getting vaccinated remains the best defense against serious illness and death, health authorities say. The July report found unvaccinated Alaskans were 7 1/2 times as likely to be hospitalized as vaccinated people.

As of Monday, 62.9% of eligible Alaskans had received at least one dose of vaccine and 58.9% were considered fully vaccinated. Alaska ranked 30th in the country for vaccination rates, a slight uptick since last week.

For up-to-date information, visit the [State of Alaska’s COVID-19 page](#). You can download the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services “Reasons to Get Vaccinated Flyer by clicking [here](#).



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YOU CAN 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](#).

Booster doses

Many Alaskans who are at the highest risk for COVID-19 are now eligible to receive a Pfizer booster dose at least six months after the second dose of their Pfizer vaccine series. The CDC recommends:

- people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- people aged 50 to 64 with [certain underlying medical conditions](#) **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- people 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to [certain underlying medical conditions](#) **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks; and
- people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of [occupational or institutional setting](#) **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

There is not enough information available to make additional recommendations for other populations or people who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

For more information about vaccines, visit covidvax.alaska.gov.

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.

Misinformation about vaccinations and how well they work and the downplaying of the seriousness of COVID-19 continues to be a big factor in why so many Alaskans remain unvaccinated. There is a lot of misinformation out there, particularly on social media. Click [here](#) for CDC’s helpful page for [myth-busting](#) and [here](#) for the Public Health Communication Collaborative’s page on misinformation.

For facts, guidance, and data at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services’ main COVID page, click [here](#).

AFN Meeting Schedule

AFN Quarterly Board Meeting — Friday, October 15

AFN Forum “Leadership in Uncertain Times” — Tuesday, October 19