

[View this email in your browser](#)



## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

AFN's statewide briefing will resume in January.

---

## 2021 AFN CONVENTION A SUCCESS

AFN's virtual Annual Convention was held on Monday and Tuesday, December 13 and 14.

AFN wishes to thank the dozens of presenters, hundreds of AFN delegates, thousands of participants, Convention sponsors and exhibitors for making our 2021 AFN Convention a huge success. Qu yana!

Congratulations to Ana Hoffman for her reelection as Co-Chair for another term. And congratulations to our newly elected village representatives to AFN's statewide board of directors.

Thousands of viewers watched the Convention on live statewide television, radio, and online. Thousands followed on social media and participated via AFN's app and virtual event platform. You can still log in to the [AFN app](#) for information on AFN President's Awards winners, presenters, sponsors and exhibitors.

Watch the 2021 AFN Convention again!

Click [HERE](#) to watch or rewatch the unedited, live webcast archive.

ANCSA at 50:  
**EMPOWERING**  
**OUR FUTURE**



**Click here to rewatch  
the 2021 AFN Convention.**

#2021AFN • #ANCSAat50 • #EmpoweringOurFuture

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 2021 Quyana broadcast video, which originally aired Monday evening, December 13.

---

# THANK YOU SPONSORS

## DENALI

---

GCI

Visit Anchorage

## KATMAI

---

AARP

Alaska Airlines

Chugach Alaska  
Corporation

ExxonMobil

Walmart

Wells Fargo

## SUSITNA

---

Ahtna, Inc.

Alaska Commercial  
Company

Alyeska Pipeline Service  
Company

Bristol Bay Native  
Corporation

CIRI

ConocoPhillips Alaska

Donlin Gold

First National Bank Alaska

Hilcorp

IBEW Local 1547

Landye Bennett Blumstein,  
LLP

Northern Air Cargo

Teck Alaska Red Dog

Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat  
Corporation



AFN extends a heartfelt thank you  
to all of our sponsors for making  
this year's convention possible.

# THANK YOU SPONSORS

## TAKU

Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Authority

Bering Straits Native  
Corporation

Cashion Gilmore &  
Lindemuth

Chenega Corporation

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Hobbs Straus Dean &  
Walker PC

Kinross Manh Choh

NEA-Alaska

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Oil Search

Tanana Chiefs Conference

The Tatitlek Corporation

TOTE Maritime

White Rock Minerals

## KOBUK

Alaska Seafood Marketing  
Institute

Alaska USA Federal  
Credit Union

AT&T

Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

The Eyak Corporation

Graphite One

Halliburton

Koniag

Lincoln Financial Group

National Cooperative Bank

Northrim Bank

Stantec Consulting Services  
Inc.

The Alaska Committee

U.S. Navy

University of Alaska  
Southeast PITAAS Program

## FRIENDS OF AFN

Alaska Legal Services  
Corporation

Alaska Pacific University

Alaskans for Better  
Elections

Birch Horton Bittner &  
Cherot, PC

EDC, Inc.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Lynden

Millrock Exploration  
Corporation

Native Village of Port  
Graham

True North Federal Credit  
Union

**COVID-19 UPDATE**  
**Protecting Our Loved Ones**



As Alaskans gather to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, tribal, state, and federal health professionals and scientists continue to urge Alaskans to stay vigilant with COVID-19 mitigation practices, including vaccination, vaccine boosters, masking, and social distancing. Alaskans will be gathering together indoors to celebrate the holidays. This could cause a resurgence of cases of both COVID-19 and the flu.

While many of us are ready to reboot our holiday traditions, COVID cases are once again rapidly climbing nationally. Experts warn we still need to keep COVID risk-reduction in mind. Even if your family is fully vaccinated, remember your most vulnerable family members, particularly people over 80 or the immunocompromised, are still at higher risk of severe COVID.

Nearly two years into this pandemic, we've learned a lot about how to reduce the risks of catching and spreading this virus, including the simple steps of masking and hand-washing. Let's not forget now.

Click [HERE](#) for some reminders on how to keep your family gatherings safe, compiled by [National Public Radio](#).

## Holiday Travel

Many Alaskans will be traveling during the holiday season as well. Below are travel guidances from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

### Travel Advisories in Effect

[Health Advisory 2: International and Interstate Travel](#), which addresses recommendations regarding travel into Alaska, and [Health Advisory 3: Intrastate Travel](#), which addresses travel within Alaska, went into effect on February 14, 2021, and have been updated on April 26, 2021. The changes keep protective protocols in place but are aimed at making the rules simpler and easier to understand. Read the detailed recommendations and information at [Health Advisory Information](#).

[If I get vaccinated do I have to comply with Health Advisory 3, Intrastate Travel or Health Advisory 2, International and Interstate Travel?](#)

### Wear a Mask While Traveling

All travelers into, within, or out of the United States, e.g., on airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares will be required to wear a mask. The mask requirement also applies to travelers in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and seaports; train, bus, and subway stations; and any other areas that provide transportation. Transportation operators must require individuals onboard to wear masks when boarding, disembarking, and for the duration of travel. Operators of transportation hubs must require individuals to wear a mask when entering or on the premises of a transportation hub.

For more information on President Biden's Executive Order or to view frequently asked questions, visit: [Federal Register Notice: Wearing of face masks while on conveyances and at transportation hubs](#).

While many of us are ready to reboot our holiday traditions, COVID cases are once again rapidly climbing nationally — with nearly 95,000 new cases a day. Experts warn we still need to keep COVID risk-reduction in mind. **Even if your family is fully vaccinated, remember your most vulnerable family members, particularly people over 80 or the immunocompromised, are still at higher risk of severe COVID.**

Nearly two years into this pandemic, we've learned a lot about how to reduce the risks of catching and spreading this virus, including the simple steps of masking and hand-washing. Let's not forget now.

Click [HERE](#) for CDC guidance on how to stay safe for the holidays. Click [HERE](#) for some reminders for how to keep your family gatherings safe, compiled by [National Public Radio](#).

## State of Alaska Helpline

All Alaskans can also call the state's coronavirus helpline at 907-646-3322 for assistance finding and making an appointment. That phone line is monitored from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends.

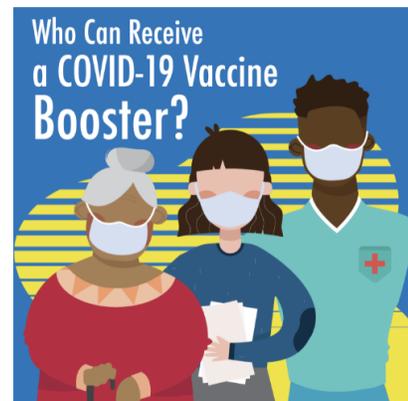
### CDC FACTS

Click [HERE](#) for the U.S. Center for Disease Control's tribal specific fact sheet: What Tribal Communities Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines.

## Vaccination Is Our Best Tool to Stop the Spread of COVID-19

Getting vaccinated remains the best defense against serious illness and death, health authorities say.

The recent report found unvaccinated Alaskans were 7 1/2 times as likely to be hospitalized as vaccinated people.



### Don't miss out on your COVID-19 vaccine booster!

[Booster doses](#) are available for Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines with [mixed dosing allowed \(PDF\)](#).

Find out if you're eligible with this quick quiz:

[Booster eligibility survey](#).

If you received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot 6 months or more after their initial series:

- Age 65+
- Residents and staff in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ and have [underlying medical conditions](#) including asthma, diabetes, obesity
- Age 18+ and work in [high-risk settings](#) including healthcare workers, teachers, grocery store workers

For the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type they originally received while others may prefer to get a different booster.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Booster page.

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

**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](#).

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

### **Vaccinate to stop the spread of the flu!**

Keep yourself and those around you safe! Flu season is upon us and ANTHC, state, and federal health officials are urging Alaskans to vaccinate against the flu. Many tribal health organizations are running flu clinics across Alaska. Please check with your local facility for times and dates near you. It is important for all people to get vaccinated for the flu to protect ourselves, as well as our family, coworkers and community. In addition, influenza poses a greater risk to certain people like pregnant women, children and Elders – they are all at high risk for flu-related complications. For more information about flu vaccines from ANTHC, click [HERE](#). For CDC info, click [HERE](#).

A common myth about the flu vaccine is that it can cause you to get the flu. Fact: You cannot get the flu from a flu vaccine. The vaccine does not contain live flu viruses or in many cases, the flu virus at all. Vaccine safety is closely monitored annually by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). To learn more about influenza and vaccination myths and facts, click [HERE](#).



Established in 1966 to achieve a fair and just settlement of aboriginal land claims, AFN is the oldest and largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 169 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs. AFN is governed by a [38-member board](#), which is elected by its membership at the annual convention held each October. AFN'S mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

*Learn more at [www.nativefederation.org](http://www.nativefederation.org).*

*Copyright © 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



