



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

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Expanded COVID-19 Testing Now Available at Alaska Native Medical Center; Evolving criteria and increased testing supplies result in growing ability to test, faster results

The drive-thru testing site on the Alaska Native Health Campus offers an easy way for more people to know their COVID-19 status faster than before in Alaska. ANMC medical staff are equipped with supplies and machines to test higher volumes of patients with quicker test turnaround times.

People eligible to receive care at ANMC are encouraged to be tested even with mild symptoms they think might be COVID-19 related. Eligible patients and staff who are experiencing any symptoms can call the ANMC Walk-In clinic at 729-1500 for a test referral for COVID-19. Once patients have a referral, they will be directed to visit the site located at 3925 Tudor Centre Drive.

Once tested, patients should self-isolate at home until test results are known. In most cases, test results are available within a day or two, versus earlier testing that could take a week or more. Previously, patients were referred for testing under more strict criteria due to a lack of resources, but ANMC and many other community testing locations now have expanded capabilities. We encourage community members to contact their health care provider to see what testing capabilities are available to them.

Medical experts have learned that even people who are not experiencing symptoms may unknowingly spread the virus. Some patients have expressed worry that there are not enough COVID-19 tests and should wait for symptoms to worsen before calling for a referral. ANMC and Tribal health organizations across Alaska have enough tests for any Tribal health beneficiary who wants to get tested and urges ANMC patients and staff with symptoms to get tested immediately.

Additional testing available at Tribal health locations

The more people tested, the more we know about how to slow the spread of COVID-19. Please encourage beneficiaries to contact ANMC's Walk-In Clinic or their local Tribal health organization to find out about testing in their communities. ANTHC and Tribal partners across the state are equipped with ID NOW testing units and testing kits. Consistent with Tribal self-governance, each region received the machines to distribute and use them in the best clinical manner for the areas they serve. The testing devices may be subsequently circulated and shared as changing needs for COVID-19 testing evolve.