



## City of Cordova

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# COVID-19 Affects Local Seafood Processor

24 individuals in Cordova tested positive yesterday. Cordova now has 70 active cases.

Last week, several employees at *Alaska Wild Seafoods* exhibited COVID-19 symptoms. They were immediately isolated and tested. Upon receipt of positive test results, *Alaska Wild Seafoods* locked down all employees and facilities. They are skipping the upcoming opener, and have closed *Camtu's* store. Although a majority of their employees are vaccinated, all employees received COVID-19 tests. These tests revealed a significant cluster of positives. *Alaska Wild Seafoods* is now working closely with the City of Cordova and Cordova Community Medical Center to keep both their employees and our community safe.

This infection did not begin at *Alaska Wild Seafoods*. All local employees were tested at the start of the season, and all non-local employees were quarantined upon arrival in Cordova. Despite these efforts, employees evidently contracted COVID-19 locally and spread it to other employees. This spread was aggravated by lack of universal vaccination, both in *Alaska Wild Seafoods'* congregate housing, and our community.

Currently, in Alaska, 96% of hospitalizations and 98% of deaths from COVID-19 are in unvaccinated individuals. Cordova is seeing increased numbers of unvaccinated individuals visiting the ER with COVID-19. While there have been some “break-through” cases in vaccinated individuals in Cordova, these cases have not been as serious, and have not required ER visits. **Vaccination is the only tool we have to prevent mortality and hospitalization from COVID-19.** If you are concerned about the safety of the vaccine, please talk with your healthcare provider; the vaccine is much, much safer than contracting COVID-19.

The Medical Response Team strongly encourages individuals to revert to the COVID-safe strategies learned during the early stages of the pandemic. These include universal mask wearing, keeping social bubbles small, and socializing outside whenever possible.

The City will return to updating its COVID-19 dashboard daily, Monday through Friday, by 11:00 A.M.

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