



## COVID-19 Copper River Region Data FAQ

### How are cases defined?

Cases are confirmed cases diagnosed by a positive detection test conducted by a medical laboratory.

- **New Cases in the Last 7 Days:**

Total number of new confirmed cases diagnosed by a positive detection test in the past 7 days.

This total is based on the date of the actual test.

- **Presumed Active Cases:**

Presumed active cases are new cases that have been diagnosed by a positive detection test in the past 20 days. Active cases are based on CDC criteria and State of Alaska DHSS public reporting precedent. In the absence of private individual patient medical records, cases are no longer considered active after 20 days from their diagnosis date. It is not possible to monitor the clinical status of each individual who tests positive, particularly for those who are asymptomatic or decline medical treatment. Therefore, for the purpose of estimating local active case density, we estimate total active cases based on the CDC established criteria of 20 days following diagnosis.

- **Cumulative Case Count:**

Total number of confirmed cases diagnosed by a positive detection test conducted by a medical laboratory since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### How are case data collected?

Each of the three regional healthcare agencies reports new case numbers on a weekly basis to the Incident Command Liaison at CRNA. In times of rapidly increasing case numbers, we may collect and report regional data on a more frequent basis. Regional COVID case information reported above is based on positive tests from CRNA, CRHM, and MSTC. The information also includes positive cases tested outside the region but known to be quarantining within our region.

### Why are data not reported for smaller villages/towns?

The State of Alaska has determined that we may not publicize case location information for communities with populations less than 1,000. From the State of Alaska: "Because we are a HIPAA compliant agency, we do not report information for towns or villages with less than 1,000 residents to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients. Geographic information at a granular level, in combination with other information that we report, may inadvertently identify a person."

### Does case data include nonresidents?

Yes, the case data reflects positive cases in the region, including both residents and nonresidents who are physically dwelling in the Copper River region.

### Where can I see our local data on the State COVID-19 website?

Our regional data is combined in the State totals reported for the Valdez-Cordova Census Area. Our communities are labeled as "Other" within the census area. Case totals reported on the State COVID-19 website may look different from our locally reported data for several reasons. First, operating on a large scale adds lag time to the State's reporting system. CRNA, CRHM, and MSTC are reporting numbers at close of business that may not yet be reported by the state. Second, State data is reported using a patient's home address, whether or not the person currently resides at that address. Factors such as this make it tricky for the State to assign COVID positive numbers to rural communities.

### Where can I learn more about the data on the State COVID-19 website?

<https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/cases-frequently-asked-questions>