



ALASKA

STATE REPORT | 07.26.2020

SUMMARY

- Alaska is in the yellow zone for cases, indicating between 10 to 100 new cases per 100,000 population last week, and the green zone for test positivity, indicating a rate below 5%.
- Alaska has seen an increase in new cases and an increase in testing positivity over the past week.
- The following three boroughs had the highest number of new cases over the past 3 weeks: 1. Anchorage Municipality, 2. Fairbanks North Star Borough, and 3. Matanuska-Susitna Borough. These boroughs represent 76.9 percent of new cases in Alaska.
- Alaska had 73 new cases per 100,000 population in the past week, compared to a national average of 140 per 100,000.
- The federal government has deployed the following staff as assets to support the state response: 17 to support operations activities from FEMA; 5 to support testing activities from CDC; and 22 to support operations activities from USCG.
- During Jul 18 - Jul 24, on average, 5 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 13 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Alaska. An average of 45 percent of hospitals reported each day during this period; therefore, this may be an underestimate of the actual total number of COVID-related hospitalizations. Underreporting may lead to a lower allocation of critical supplies.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Emphasize continued need for social distancing (at least 6 ft) and cloth face masks for people in public, especially indoor spaces.
- Mandate wearing of face masks in all indoor settings outside the home, especially workplaces like seafood processing centers and in population centers with high or increasing case counts: Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star, Kenai Peninsula, Matanuska-Susitna, Valdez-Cordova and Yukon-Koyukuk.
- Investigate possible outbreaks quickly and aggressively, particularly in areas with increasing case counts.
- Intensify contact tracing, with timely quarantine of contacts and isolation of cases, especially in boroughs with increasing case counts.
- Continue wide-scale testing programs in congregate settings where there is an increased risk for transmission or severe disease, especially among seafood workers and in long-term care facilities. Require staff in long-term care facilities to wear face masks while working.
- Ensure adequate facilities to house people in need of quarantine or isolation who cannot quarantine or isolate at home. This recommendation is particularly relevant in communities with multi-generational households.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the [CDC website](#).

The purpose of this report is to develop a shared understanding of the current status of the pandemic at the national, regional, state and local levels. We recognize that data at the state level may differ from that available at the federal level. Our objective is to use consistent data sources and methods that allow for comparisons to be made across localities. We appreciate your continued support in identifying data discrepancies and improving data completeness and sharing across systems. We look forward to your feedback.

** This figure may differ from state data due to differences in hospital lists between federal and state systems or inclusion of hospitals that are not admitting COVID-19 patients. We are working to incorporate feedback on an ongoing basis to update these figures. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals.*



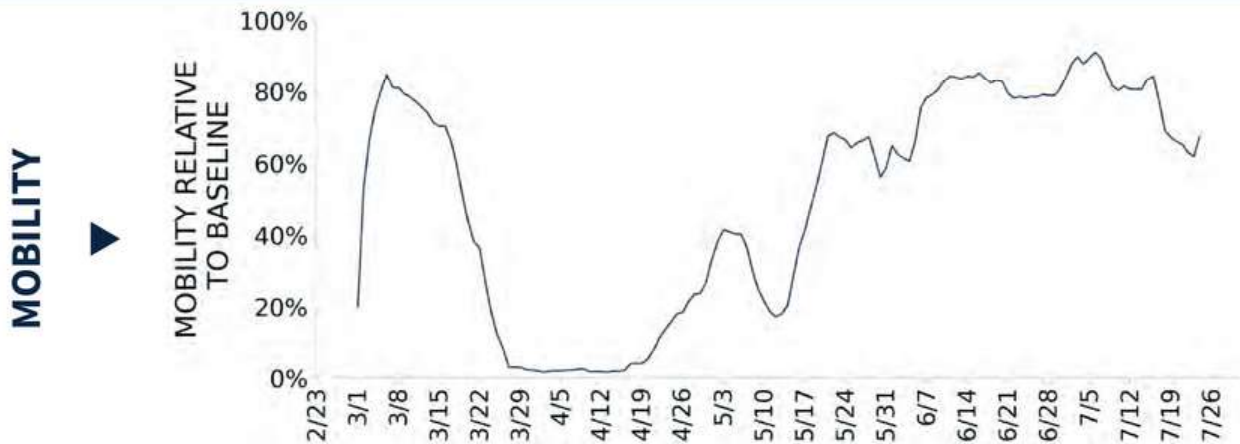
COVID-19



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	STATE, LAST WEEK	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	FEMA/HHS REGION, LAST WEEK	UNITED STATES, LAST WEEK
NEW CASES (RATE PER 100,000)	533 (73)	+34.3%*	12,065 (84)	460,137 (140)
DIAGNOSTIC TEST POSITIVITY RATE	3.8%	+1.5%*	6.6%	8.5%
TOTAL DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	25,669** (3,509)	-7.8%**	221,815** (1,546)	5,437,404** (1,657)
COVID DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	2 (0)	-33.3%	113 (1)	6,434 (2)
SNFs WITH AT LEAST ONE COVID-19 CASE	0.0%	+0.0%*	4.4%	12.1%



* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.

** Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.

DATA SOURCES

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating borough-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 7/24/2020; last week is 7/18 - 7/24, previous week is 7/11 - 7/17.

Testing: State-level values calculated by using 7-day rolling averages of reported tests. Regional- and national-level values calculated by using a combination of CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data and HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) through 7/22/2020. Last week is 7/16 - 7/22, previous week is 7/9 - 7/15. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 07/25/2020. Some dates may be incomplete due to delays in reporting. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.

Mobility: Descartes Labs. This data depicts the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a borough; 100% represents the baseline mobility level. Data is anonymized and provided at the borough level. Data through 7/24/2020.

SNFs: Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Last week is 7/13-7/19, previous week is 7/6-7/12.



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COVID-19 BOROUGH AND METRO ALERTS

	LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE		LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE	
METRO AREA (CBSA) LAST WEEK	0	N/A	0	N/A
BOROUGH LAST WEEK	0	N/A	1	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area

Red Zone: Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and boroughs that during the last week reported both new cases above 100 per 100,000 population, and a diagnostic test positivity result above 10%.

Yellow Zone: Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and boroughs that during the last week reported both new cases between 10-100 per 100,000 population, and a diagnostic test positivity result between 5-10%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the “Red Zone.”

Note: Top 12 locations are selected based on the highest number of new cases in the last three weeks.

DATA SOURCES

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating borough-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 7/24/2020; last week is 7/18 - 7/24, three weeks is 7/4 - 7/24.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 7/22/2020. Last week is 7/16 - 7/22. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE RED ZONE

Public Messaging

- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
- Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
- Do not go to bars, nightclubs, or gyms
- Use take out or eat outdoors socially distanced
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene, including handwashing and cleaning surfaces
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 25% of your normal activity

Public Officials

- Close bars and gyms, and create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
- Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
- Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities. Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
- Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
- Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
- Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
- Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
- Provide isolation facilities outside of households if COVID-positive individuals can't quarantine successfully

Testing

- Move to community-led neighborhood testing and work with local community groups to increase access to testing
- Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes with highest case rates
- **Diagnostic pooling:** Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 2-3 individuals in high incidence settings and 5:1 pools in setting where test positivity is under 10%
- **Surveillance pooling:** For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE YELLOW ZONE IN ORDER TO PREEMPT EXPONENTIAL COMMUNITY SPREAD

Public Messaging

- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
- Limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer
- Do not go to bars or nightclubs
- Use take out, outdoor dining or indoor dining when strict social distancing can be maintained
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 50% of your normal activity

Public Officials

- Limit gyms to 25% occupancy and close bars until percent positive rates are under 3%; create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
- Limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer
- Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities. Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
- Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
- Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
- Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
- Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
- Provide isolation facilities outside of households if COVID-positive individuals can't quarantine successfully

Testing

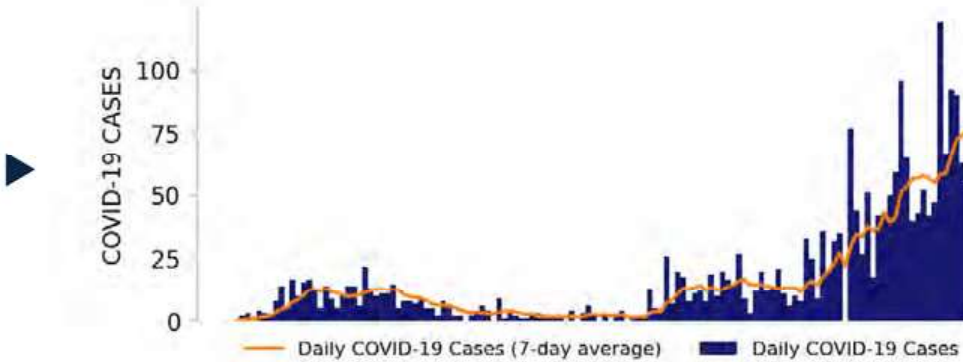
- Move to community-led neighborhood testing and work with local community groups to increase access to testing
- Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes with highest case rates
- **Diagnostic pooling:** Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 3-5 individuals
- **Surveillance pooling:** For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device



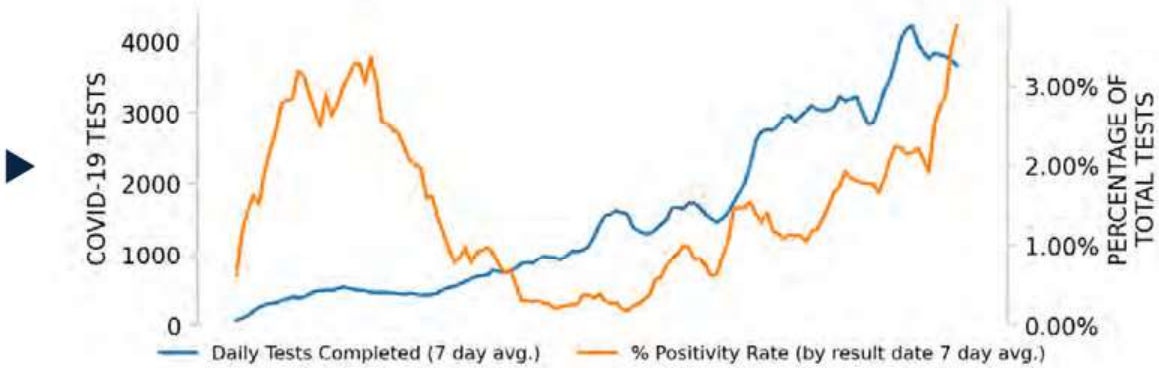
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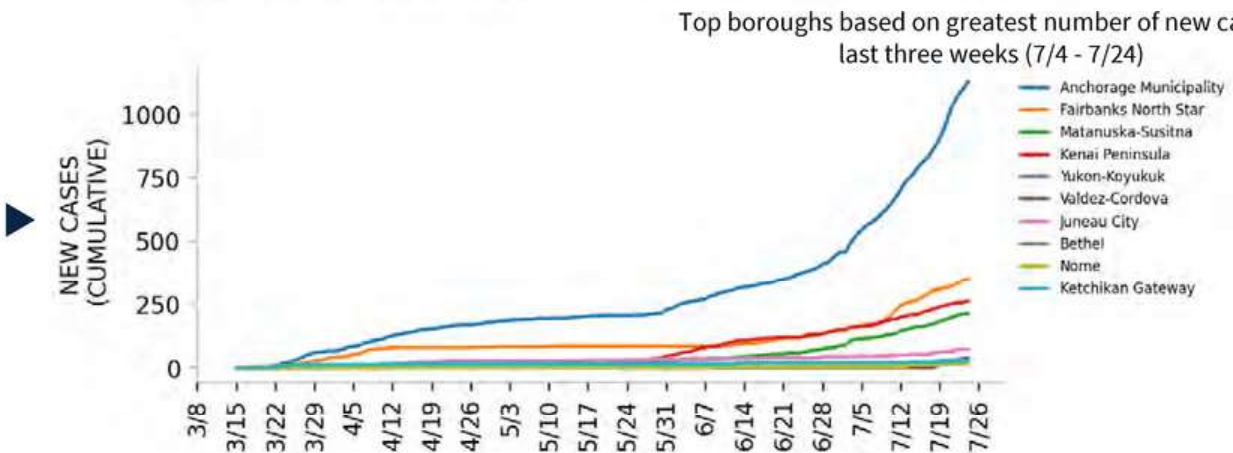
NEW CASES



TESTING



TOP BOROUGHES



Top boroughs based on greatest number of new cases in last three weeks (7/4 - 7/24)

DATA SOURCES

Cases: Borough-level data from USAFacts. State values are calculated by aggregating borough-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 7/24/2020.

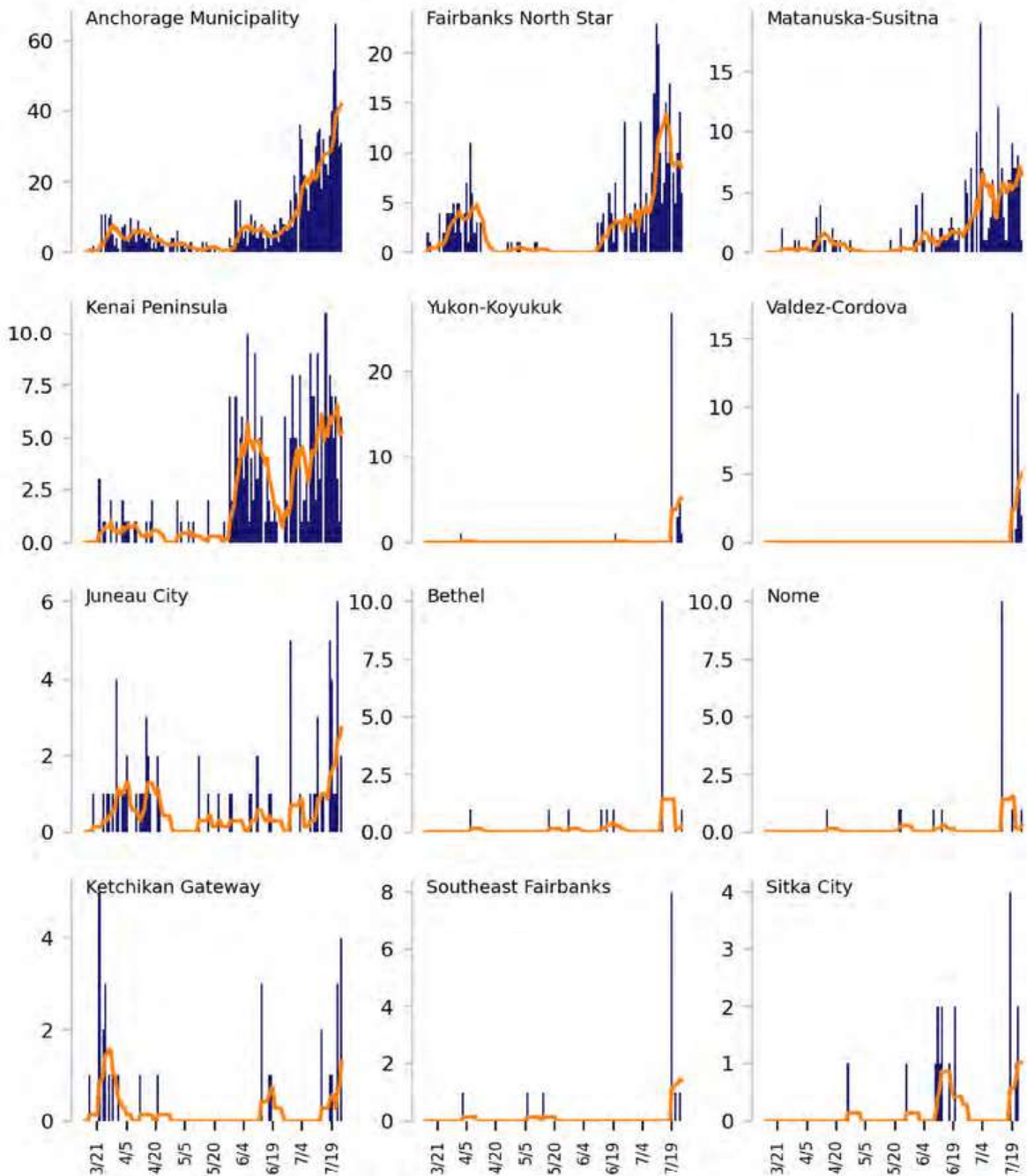
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 7/22/2020.



Top 12 boroughs based on number of new cases in the last 3 weeks

— Daily COVID-19 Cases (7-day average) ■ Daily COVID-19 Cases

TOTAL DAILY CASES



DATA SOURCES

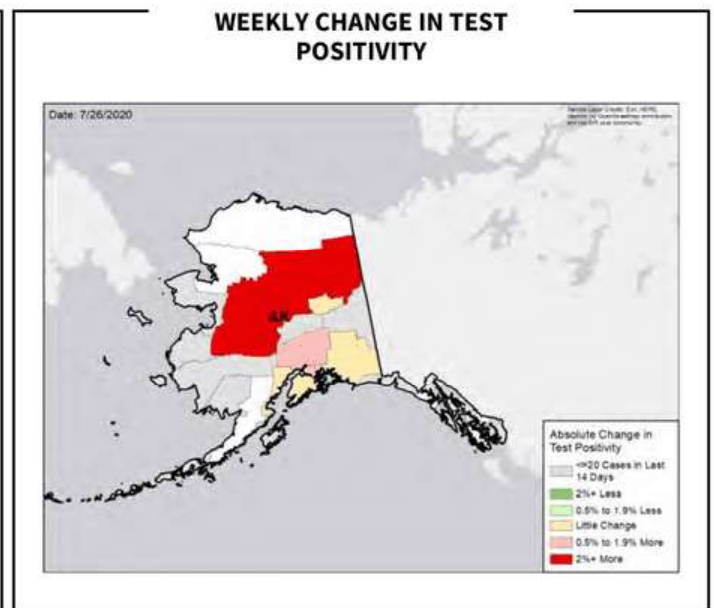
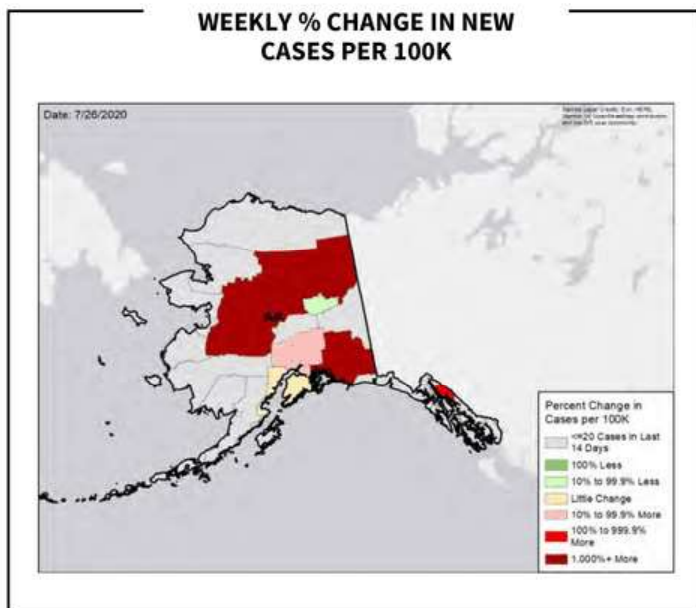
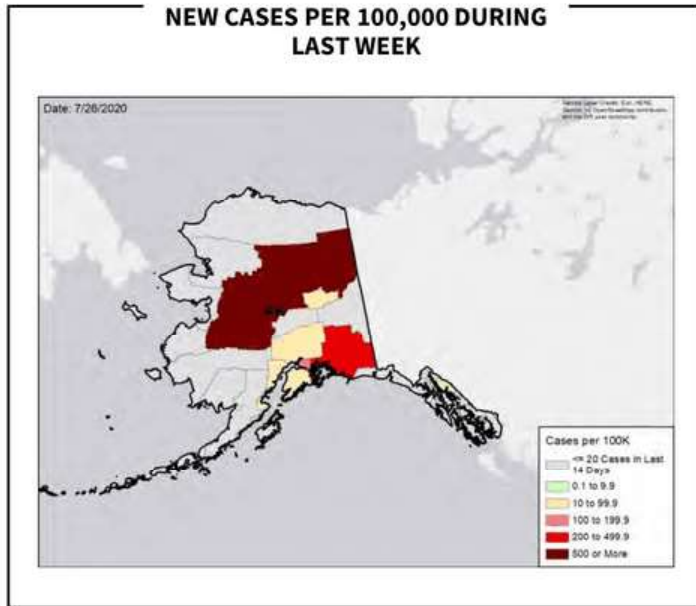
Cases: Borough-level data from USAFacts through 7/24/2020. Last 3 weeks is 7/4 - 7/24.



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CASE RATES AND DIAGNOSTIC TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK



DATA SOURCES

Cases: Borough-level data from USAFacts through 7/24/2020. Last week is 7/18 - 7/24, previous week is 7/11 - 7/17.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 7/22/2020. Last week is 7/16 - 7/22, previous week is 7/9 - 7/15. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.

