



Lake and Peninsula Borough

*P.O. Box 495
King Salmon, Alaska 99613*

*Telephone: (907) 246-3421
Fax: (907) 246-6602*

Date: 1/8/2021

To: All Communities in Lake and Peninsula Borough

From: Nathan Hill, Manager

Re: Weekly Update – Jan 4 thru Jan 8

Vaccine distribution in the state and region is currently underway. Frontline health workers in some of our villages have already received their initial dose of the vaccine. Healthcare providers are working hard to schedule trips to our remaining communities. We expect this to happen in the next week or so. Please be patient as vaccine distribution and scheduling in our region, especially in January, can be challenging. The vaccine continues to be distributed through a phased allocation plan. There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months ahead. The primary groups in the first phase include healthcare workers and people over the age of 65. Everyone who wants to be vaccinated will have the opportunity to be vaccinated in the weeks and months ahead.

There is a lot of rapidly evolving information out there regarding vaccine distribution, side effects, and safety. The [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) is a great source of information about the vaccine. [Covidvax.Alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov) is also a good source for information about the vaccine and Alaska's distribution plans. You can also reach out to LPB staff or your healthcare provider if you have specific questions or concerns and we will do our best to address them.

It is important to note that even if someone receives the vaccine, they still need to wear a mask, and practice social distancing. The vaccine helps you build up antibodies, but it does not stop possible transmission of the virus to others through respiratory droplets. To be fully effective, both COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) require a second dose to be administered within a specific time frame following the initial dose. Even with the second dose, it may take two weeks for the vaccine to take effect. This means that we all have to practice patience and recognize that although the vaccine distribution process has begun, it will take time before we are able to relax. Cases are still high in the state and wearing a mask, washing your hands, and practicing social distancing continue to be critical tools for protecting ourselves and our communities against COVID-19.

There are currently a few active cases in the Borough, but more in the region. Expanded testing and contact tracing is currently underway in these communities in an effort to minimize community spread. If you know you have come into contact with a positive case, please contact your local healthcare provider for instruction on testing and quarantining.

Last call: For those fishermen that haven't yet applied, USDA's Seafood Trade Relief Program has extended the application deadline to January 15, 2021.

Happy New Year!