

Hello POWCAC. Craig Public Health wanted to reach out to you regarding a few things. Please feel free to share this with your council members and EOCs.

1. Please ensure that Craig Public Health knows who in your community we are to reach out to in the event that we need to notify you that your community has a positive COVID-19. Ideally, we would like a phone number and a back-up phone number.
2. If your community has not already done so, please identify a location in your community (lodge/hotel/bunkhouse) where positive COVID-19 individuals can self-isolate if they are unable to do so in their homes. Kara and I have reached out to a number of communities asking about your plans. We have heard back from many of you that this plan is in place. Thank for you that!
3. As leaders in the community, please follow the CDC guidelines on wearing a mask when in public settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
4. We wanted to give you a run-down of the Public Health Nursing process when we have a positive case:
 - a. Section of Epidemiology or a Private Laboratory (depending on where the lab specimen was sent) notify the primary care provider (SEARHC or PeaceHealth) of the positive lab. The Section of Epidemiology then notifies Craig Public Health.
 - b. The Primary Care Provider notifies the client that they are positive.
 - c. Craig Public Health Nursing then starts their case-investigation. We start by speaking to the positive COVID-19 client. We are gathering information on what symptoms they have, when their symptoms started, where they have been, who they have been in contact with. We are also gathering a full medical history. We are then providing them with education, which includes verbal instructions and an email with the following information:
 1. Strict instructions to stay home. They may leave the house only to seek medical care.
 2. Self-isolate within the home. Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Stay away from pets.
 3. If you do have to come into contact with other people in your home, wear a facemask.
 4. Take your temperature twice per day, if you have a thermometer.
 5. Avoid sharing personal household items (dishware, eating utensils, etc)
 6. Wash your hands often
 7. Clean all "high-touch" services daily.
 8. Monitor your symptoms.
 9. Call your primary care provider if your symptoms worsen.
 10. If 9-1-1 is required, please let dispatch know that you are positive for COVID-
 - d. Craig Public Health then calls the community in which there is a positive. We provide only the information that there is a positive in your community. No other details. It is then up to the

community to decide if they want to produce a press release. If you need assistance with a press release we can direct you to the State of AK DHSS Public Information Officer and she will be happy to help.

e. Craig Public Health works with the Primary Care Provider that collected the original specimen to ensure their staff safety. We want to ensure that their staff was wearing proper PPE when they saw the client.

f. Craig Public Health outreaches every identified contact. We can only tell the contact who the positive COVID-19 client is if the client gives us permission to do so. Otherwise we are contacting people and letting them know "You have been identified as a contact to a positive COVID-19 client." We review symptoms with these contacts. If they are symptomatic we refer them for testing or we perform the testing ourselves.

g. Contacts are determined to be either close contacts or general population. We also determine if they are low-risk or medium/high risk.

h. For medium/high risk contacts we provide the following verbal instructions and an email with the following information:

1. Strict information on staying home x 14 days after the last day you were in close contact with the person with COVID-19. This is quarantine, not self-isolation. (Unless they are symptomatic and need testing, then they are in self-isolation x 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the positive COVID-19 person)
2. Take your temperature twice per day, if you have a thermometer.
3. Monitor yourself for symptoms.
4. Wash your hands often.
5. Clean all "high-touch" surfaces daily.

i. For low risk contacts we provide the following verbal instructions and an email with the following information:

1. Monitor your symptoms.
2. Follow the mandates and instructions that everyone else in the general population has been given: hunker-down, wear a face mask when in public, social-distancing, etc, etc, etc.

j. Craig Public Health contacts positive cases and medium/high contacts on a daily basis to conduct a telephone assessment of symptoms and to reiterate the importance of the above instructions.

k. A positive case may leave self-isolation when it has been at least 7 days since the onset of symptoms AND at least 72 hours of being symptom free.

l. Craig Public Health works with the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology to determine if the case is travel related, community spread, or secondary contact. This often takes some time. We perform lots of interviews and explore lots of avenues to ensure we have done a thorough investigation before we announce this information.

m. The state of Alaska DHSS will release information by noon the following day on their website <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/> that provides information on what communities have positive cases and they will list the sex and age bracket of the individual.

n. Craig Public Health will not be releasing the names of any positive individuals. That is up to the person who is positive if they want to publicly announce who they are.

o. State of Alaska DHSS, at this time, has not given Public Health Nursing permission to release any identifying information on positives to dispatch or first responders. It is up to the individual and their family to notify dispatch that they are positive if 9-1-1 services are needed. This process may change in the future but for right now, this is a rule that Craig Public Health has to follow.

We have been fielding lots of questions from community leadership on this process. I know this is a lot of information to throw at you. I hope this information is helpful to you. This is the same process that other Public Health Centers follow throughout the state.

Thank you,

Stacey Mank, RN

Kara McCoy, RN