

# YAKUTAT VISITOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Visitors traveling to Yakutat are encouraged to review the following websites for more information about travel requirements.

<https://covid19.alaska.gov/?s=travelers>

<https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>

<https://covid19.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/06112020-Mandate-10-Travel-declaration-form-Ver-2.0-6-10-f.pdf>

**NOTICE: Beginning August 11, 2020 the State of Alaska will stop providing covid-19 testing to non-resident travelers. All Non-residents will be required to have a negative test prior to traveling to Alaska. As more detailed information becomes available, it will be posted on the Alaska.gov website.**

## 1. If I can't get a COVID-19 test in my state before traveling to Alaska, can I get a test in Yakutat?

Yes. Until free testing is canceled by the State of Alaska on August 11, 2020, free testing will be available at the Alaska Airlines Yakutat terminal immediately following all north and southbound flights.

## 2. If I get tested in Yakutat, am I required to quarantine while I wait for the results?

Yes. If you were unable to get tested before coming to Yakutat, you are required to get tested upon arrival at the Yakutat Airport and you must quarantine while waiting for the test results. You will also receive a voucher for a second test. Beginning August 11, all non-residents will be required to have a negative test prior to traveling to Alaska.

Once you receive a negative test result, you should minimize interactions (i.e. avoid public places, social distance, wear a mask) for a full 14 days or until you receive the results from a second test taken at least 7-10 days after the first test, that shows you are negative.

## 3. What does Quarantine mean?

- a) Proceed directly to your designated quarantine location. Remain in your designated quarantine location for a period of 14 days, or the duration of your stay in Alaska, whichever is shorter.

- You may leave your designated quarantine location only for medical emergencies or to seek necessary medical care.
  - Do not visit any public spaces, including, but not limited to: pools, meeting rooms, fitness centers, or restaurants.
  - Do not allow visitors in or out of your designated quarantine location other than a physician, healthcare provider, or individual authorized to enter the designated quarantine location by Unified Command.
- b) Comply with all rules or protocols related to your quarantine as set forth by your hotel or rented lodging.

#### **4. What does “minimize interaction” mean?**

When a person has a negative test result, it provides value as a measure from a single point in time. That’s why travelers with a single test result do not have to go into quarantine.

However, that single test doesn’t account for possible exposure just before or after the test (for example, if you test before you travel, you could be exposed to another traveler who is carrying the virus).

Individuals are expected to get pre-tested, and with that negative test result they are asked to minimize their public interactions until they’ve received a second negative test result or 14 days have passed.

Minimizing interactions does not mean quarantine, but you do need to take more precautions than the usual COVID safety advice.

When you buy food - eat in outdoor settings. Order delivery if possible. Wear a face covering if you go into public areas. Take part in outdoor recreation (such as fishing) instead of staying indoors with other people. Postpone attending gatherings until after this window is over.

If you have to be in an indoor space, such as taking a short flight or riding in a shuttle to get to our lodge or outdoor activity, then everyone involved should wash their hands thoroughly and wear a face mask.

#### **5. How long does it take to get the results?**

It typically takes about 5 days to get results, however this can take longer depending upon the number of tests being processed throughout the state.

#### **6. What happens if I test positive?**

You are required to quarantine at your own expense until cleared by a public health nurse.

#### **7. Do I need Air Ambulance insurance?**

It's recommended that visitors have air ambulance insurance. With no hospital in Yakutat, only a small outpatient clinic, patients requiring hospitalization must travel to Anchorage or Juneau. Patients with confirmed COVID-19 cannot travel on Alaska Airlines so must be transported by air ambulance. A single flight from Yakutat to Anchorage without insurance can cost as much as \$75,000.

## **8. How soon can I fly to a remote fishing camp or lodge after I arrive in Yakutat?**

If you did not test before arriving in Yakutat, you must reserve lodging in Yakutat and wait 3-5 days for your test results.

Yakutat Coastal Airlines requires that you provide proof of a negative test before you are allowed to fly.

## **9. Do I have to wear a mask on the plane?**

Yes. Alaska Airlines and Yakutat Coastal Airlines require passengers to wear masks while on the plane.

## **10. Can I go fishing as soon as I get off the plane?**

That depends on when and if you received a negative test result (See Alaska Health Mandate 10.1)

**YES, you can go fishing immediately if:**

- a) If you received a negative test result within 72 hours of arriving in Alaska
- b) If you received a negative test result within 5 days of arrival, you are required to take another test upon arrival, but you are free to go fishing as long as you minimize your interactions (i.e. avoid public places, social distance, wear a mask)

**NO, you may not go fishing immediately if:**

- a) You were unable to get tested before arrival. In this case you are required to get tested upon arrival at the Yakutat Airport and you must quarantine while waiting for the test results. You will also receive a voucher for a second test.
- b) Once you receive a negative test result, you should minimize interactions (i.e. avoid public places, social distance, wear a mask) for a full 14 days or until you receive the results from a second test taken at least 7-10 days after the first test, that shows you are negative.

## **11. If I'm staying at a remote camp or lodge, what happens if I receive news that my covid-19 test is positive?**

- Guests who test positive are required to quarantine in place until cleared by the public health nurse.

Guests staying at a remote camp/lodge will be required to quarantine in place unless you can:

- a) Reserve a room to complete your quarantine in Yakutat or another community that is willing to house a covid-19 positive guest, and
- b) Reserve a flight with a private air taxi that is willing to transport a covid-19 patient from the remote camp/lodge to the pre-arranged quarantine lodging.

**Please Note:**

- Individuals who test positive for covid-19 are not permitted to fly on Alaska Airlines.
- Only individuals in need of immediate medical care may be transported to a hospital by air ambulance.

## **12. If I need emergency medical care for suspected COVID-19 while staying at a remote camp/lodge, how will I be transported to a hospital?**

Contact Yakutat Coastal Airlines to confirm whether or not they are willing and available to provide transportation to Yakutat.

**If YES:** You will fly to Yakutat before being transported to a hospital by medevac (air ambulance) at your own expense.

**If NO:** Contact the Yakutat Police Department to request a US Coast Guard emergency Evacuation to the nearest hospital.