

Full statement made by YKHC Communications Director Tiffany Zulkosky on June 30, 2020:

On June 15-16, YKHC deployed our COVID-19 village rapid response team to a service area village when the test result of a YK Delta resident returned as positive for COVID-19. During this community response, 263 people were tested (64% of the population). Confirmatory lab testing of all individuals tested, including the original positive case, returned as negative with the exception of 1.

Contact tracing indicates the second positive case was not travel related and, in consultation with Alaska's Section of Epidemiology, suggests a strong likelihood of sporadic community spread of the novel coronavirus. Because no one knows when a COVID-19 infection will result in serious illness that leads to hospitalization or death, and medical resources in our region are finite and widespread, YKHC moved forward in good faith with the joint statement after receiving expressed support from both the City and Tribe in Napaskiak. We believe not identifying the public health risk, once our providers noticed these trends, would have put lives at risk. As stated on June 25, community-based response in Napaskiak is on-going. A YKHC provider arrived in the community on June 26 and remains there until tomorrow, July 1.