

Akiak
Akiakchak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Anvik
Atmauthluak
Bethel
Billmoore's Slough
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Grayling
Hamilton
Holy Cross
Hooper Bay
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Lower Kalskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mountain Village
Napaimute
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogomiut
Oscarville
Paimute
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Shageluk
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Toksook Bay
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut
Upper Kalskag

City of Aniak
PO Box 189
Aniak, AK 99557

Dear Aniak City Council,

We are excited to share an opportunity to partner with your community to participate in a **FREE** public health initiative focused on monitoring respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses through wastewater sampling! This project builds on the success of our current efforts in Bethel, where weekly wastewater testing provides valuable insights into community health trends. www.ykhc.org/respiratory-illness/

We are reaching out to determine your interest in participating. If your community is interested, we would collaborate with your water/wastewater utility operator to collect and ship one sample to our facility in Bethel each month. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) will cover all costs associated with testing and analysis. The only requirement for your community would be the operator's time for sample collection. Our Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) team, which already supports your utility operators, would provide training on sample collection. Our Office of Environmental Health (OEH) staff would then analyze the samples in Bethel.

To be involved, please let us know:

- **Are you interested in participating in this initiative?**
- **If you are interested, would you like the findings for your community to be reported publicly on our website?**

Here are the key details of the project:

Pathogens Monitored: Initially, we would test for norovirus, COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and tuberculosis (TB). Starting next fall, we aim to expand testing to include a gastrointestinal (GI) panel for common stomach pathogens and a respiratory panel for common respiratory illnesses, as well as TB.

Findings Reporting: We would share results in a straightforward format (e.g., Low/Not Detected, Medium, High). Communities can choose whether results are publicly shared on our website (www.ykhc.org/respiratory-illness) or kept private. Public reporting helps inform regional health trends, while keeping results private focuses solely on local utility.

Timeline: If your community approves participation, we anticipate being ready to start within a few months.

We believe this project has significant potential to enhance public health awareness and preparedness in the region, and we hope your community will consider partnering with us. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us by responding to this email or by calling 907-543-6420.

Please let us know your decision by as soon as possible, but ideally before, March 15, 2025, so we can plan accordingly.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support the health of your community.

We're happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please let us know if you would like us to call into a meeting or if there is additional information we can provide. Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of working together to improve the health of your community.

Quyana,

Brian Lefferts, MPH

Director, Public Health

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Outpatient Care & Village Health

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