



Petersburg
MEDICAL CENTER

Laboratory Report July 2026

Workforce Wellness

The Laboratory is currently fully staffed, with no vacant FTEs. We are training a new uncertified technician who continues to make steady progress. She has also enrolled in an online program to earn her national ASCP certification as a Medical Laboratory Technician.

This summer, the Laboratory will welcome its first Phlebotomist Intern. The internship is designed to give recent high school graduates and early undergraduate students hands-on exposure to laboratory medicine and encourage interest in laboratory careers.

Community Engagement

Health Fair blood draws were held in the Dorothy Ingle Conference Room on February 17–19, February 24–26, and March 3–5. More than 480 community members participated, and over 80 had laboratory results that warranted follow-up with their healthcare provider. Thank you to the volunteer phlebotomists and PMC staff who helped with check-in and blood draws. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Patient Centered Care

The PMC Laboratory provides water quality testing for potable water, pools, and cannery sources in Petersburg and Wrangell. Every two years, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) conducts an inspection that includes reviewing testing and procedural documentation and observing personnel performing water microbiology testing. In April, the Lab passed its Water Microbiology Inspection with only three minor findings, all of which were corrected promptly.

Facility

The Lab's current chemistry instrument is aging and can no longer support operating system updates. It is also at capacity for onboard reagents, which limits our ability to add new chemistry tests. Over the next few months, the Lab will validate a new chemistry analyzer that will expand our in-house testing menu to include Vitamin D and Testosterone, as well as some Hepatitis testing. We hope to go live with the new instrument by November.

Financial Wellness

Staff from HIM and Lab continue to meet and review coding queries to help prevent insurance claim denials. These discussions have been highly educational for both departments and support our shared goal of staying ahead of reimbursement changes. This ongoing collaboration also helps reduce avoidable out-of-pocket costs for patients whenever possible.

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