

YKHC COVID 19 Response Update

Presented by:

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YKHC Pandemic Response

- Activated YKHC Incident Command Team in March 2020
 - While we did not have known virus in the region at that time, we were preparing for the outbreak with planning, training and drills
 - In response to world wide PPE shortages, began making masking for internal and village clinic distribution

YKHC Pandemic Response

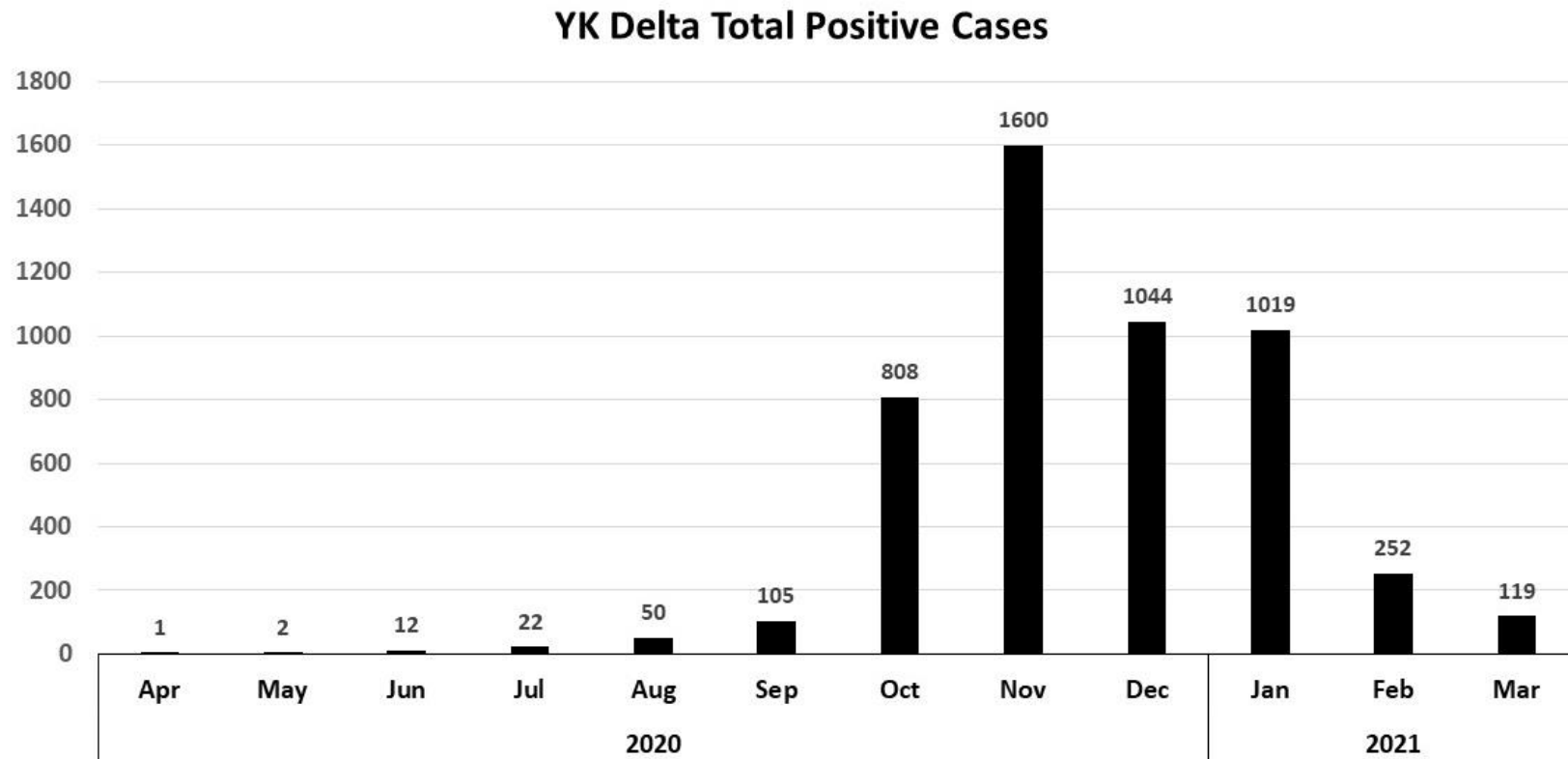
- April – August 2020
 - Prepared Hospital for an influx in patients
 - Doubled available beds and identified alternative care sites
 - Developed strategies for staff to follow if major surge hit
 - Set up an internal contact tracing team
 - Developed expanded Telehealth capabilities to serve communities while travel was not feasible
 - Still in widespread use today given limited flight availability
 - Set up widespread testing
 - Drive through and walk in testing in the Hospital parking lot
 - Airport testing – Meeting every flight in Bethel and began testing at hub airports in region, specifically Aniak and St Mary's
 - Began widespread testing in villages with positive patients
 - By July over 7000 tests were performed; 22 positive cases had been found
 - Developed rapid response teams to travel to villages with positive cases
 - Assisted in treatment and testing
 - Typically on the ground the same day if notified early enough to arrange charter or within 24 hours of positive result if not

YKHC Pandemic Response

- Sept – Dec 2020
 - Set up weekly meetings to discuss precautions and answer questions. Participants include
 - Tribal / city governments
 - School Districts
 - Individual villages
 - Internal YKHC staff
 - Continued village trips for testing and assisting with positive patients
 - Continued emphasis on testing into 2021. As of March 2021 approximately 74,600 tests have been completed
 - By the end of December over 3644 cases in Delta
 - Averaging 50 – 100 new cases per day; Peak of 135 in one day occurred in November

YKHC Pandemic Response

- The chart below identifies positive cases by month for the YK delta – as of March 18, 2021 there have been 5034 Cases



YKHC Pandemic Response

- December to Present
 - Vaccines became available in mid December
 - Set up distribution plan in all villages using charters - visited 30 villages in 4 days with multiple teams to administer vaccine to health care workers
 - Vaccine eligibility expanded to elder population shortly into this effort – immediately opened up eligibility on trips to villages

YKHC Pandemic Response

- December to Present
 - Between December 18 – January 9 completed 57 village visits throughout the delta
 - All YKHC villages with clinics were visited with some receiving multiple visits
 - Village trips continue on weekly basis to administer second shot as needed and first shot to new people
 - Set up vaccine administration space at the hospital in Bethel in mid December

YKHC Pandemic Response

- Vaccination Status as of March 17, 2021
 - Patients 16 years old and older are eligible to receive vaccine
 - 19266 Eligible patients identified; 10256 (53.2%) have received at least one shot, 8443 (43.8%) have received both shots

YKHC Pandemic Response

- Future Efforts
 - Continue vaccination distribution in all villages utilizing both Health Aides and visiting providers
 - Large Public Relations efforts ongoing to educate and sign people up
 - Continue weekly meetings to offer medical guidance

YKHC Pandemic Response

- Future Efforts
 - Resume routine village visits by providers as often as possible for medical, dental and vision appointments
 - Provide public information on the status of the virus in the delta
 - Request the AK Legislature to pass HB 76

YKHC Pandemic Response

- For up to daily information from YKHC visit
 - <https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/resources/>
 - Updated by 4:30 daily - reports of the number of cases and where they occurred
- Weekly situation reports are located on YK website
 - [COVID-19 Situation Reports – Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation \(ykhc.org\)](https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/situation-reports/)
 - For communities who have agreed to publish vaccination data, the percentages of eligible individuals who have received their vaccine are on the situational report.
 - Letters requesting permission to post were sent out to all villages in late February

YKHC Pandemic Response

- Future Risks
 - Variants to the original COVID 19 continue to emerge
 - The best defense is to get as many people vaccinated as possible and maintain masking, social distancing and minimizing group activities

QUYANA!

