

# Presentation for Alaska House of Representatives Finance Committee

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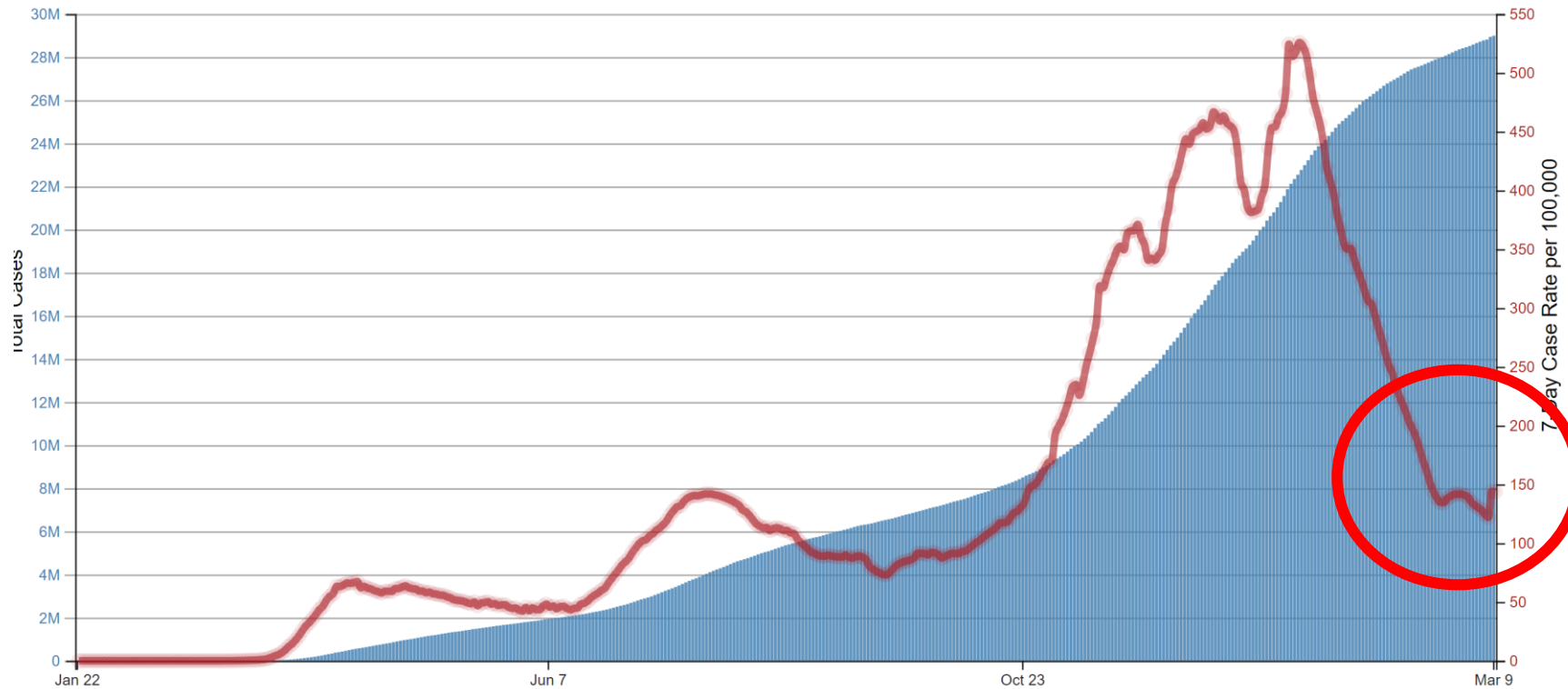
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

MARCH 11, 2021



# US COVID-19 Illness Rates Have Levelled Off

Trends in Total and 7-Day Cumulative Incidence Rate of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC, per 100,000 population

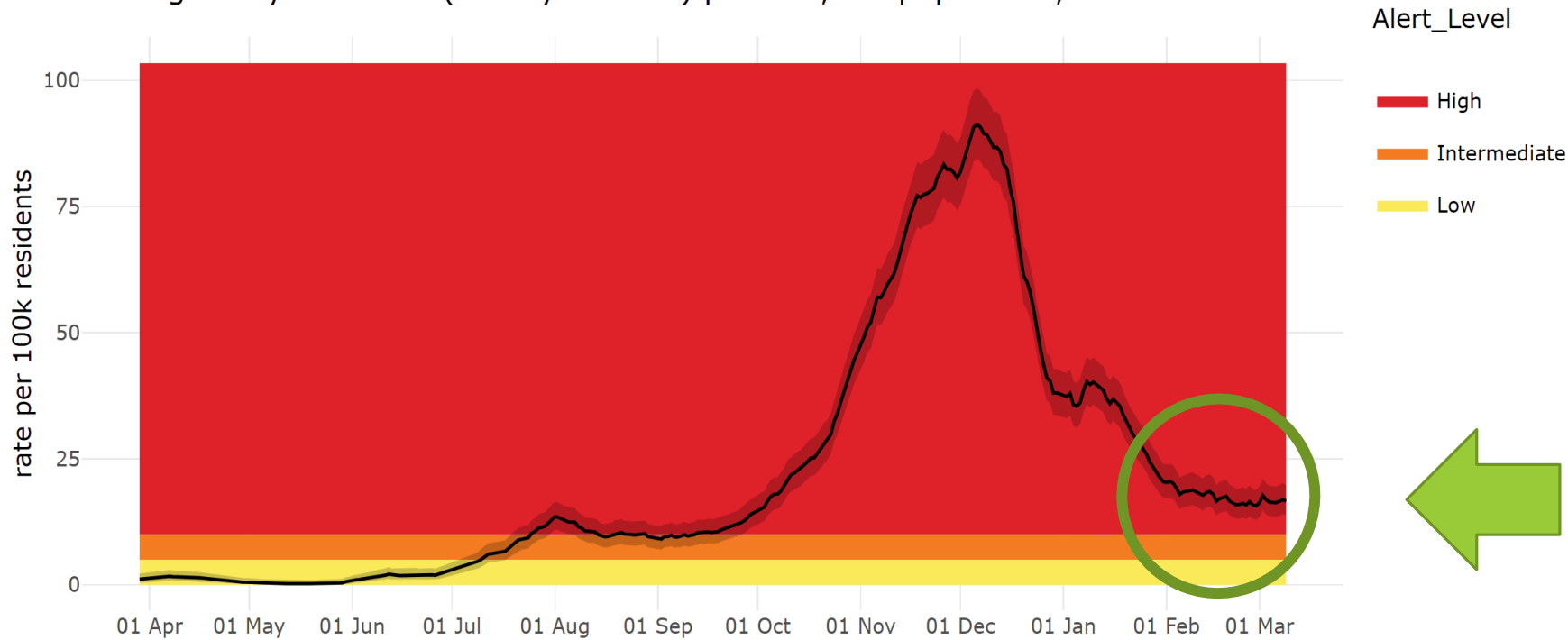


## Likely reasons:

- Decreased vigilance
- Increase in super-transmissible virus variants
  - “UK variant” B.117

# COVID rates in Alaska

Average daily case rate (14 day window) per 100,000 population, Statewide



Alert\_Level

High

Intermediate

Low

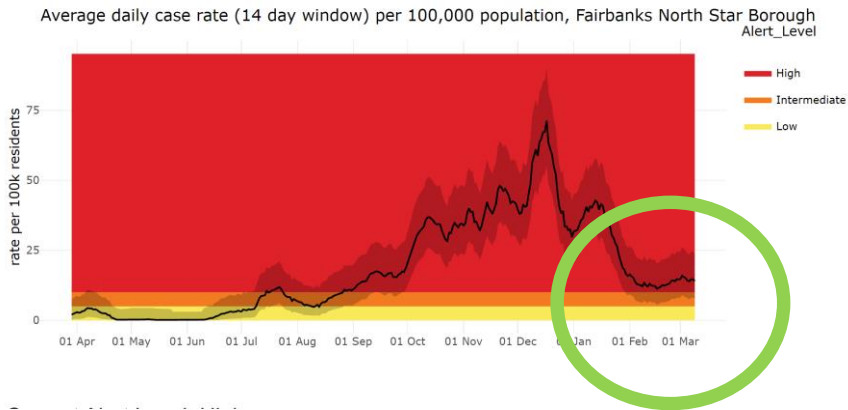


Declining rates have stalled.  
The epidemic in Alaska is not over.

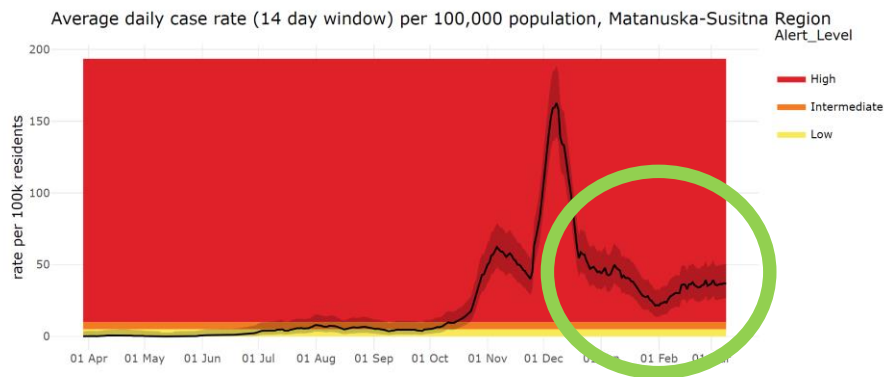
Current Alert Level: High

16.61 per 100,000 population

# COVID rates increasing in these regions



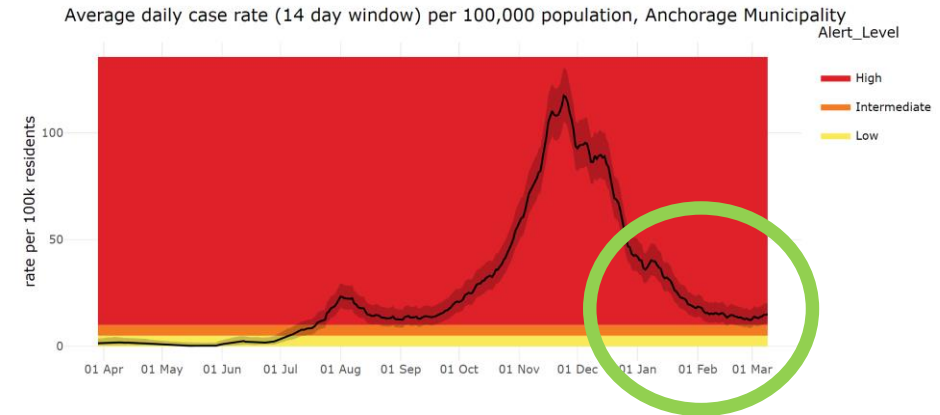
## FAIRBANKS



Current Alert Level: High

MatSu

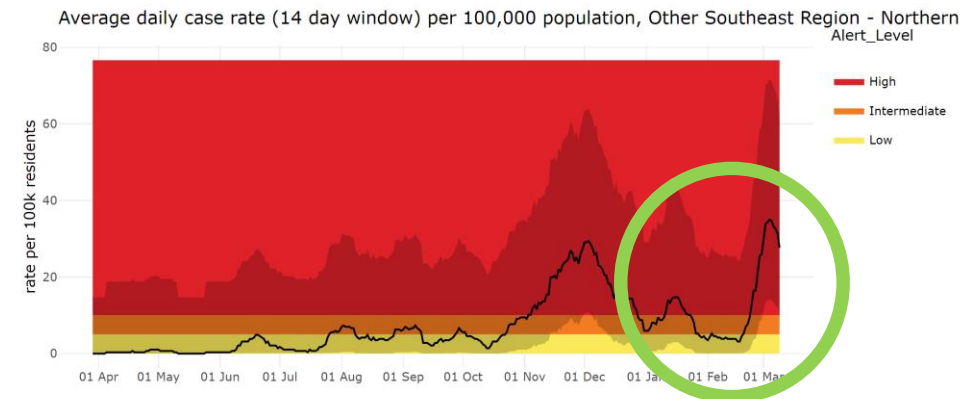
36.74 per 100,000 population



Current Alert Level: High

15 per 100,000 population

## Anchorage



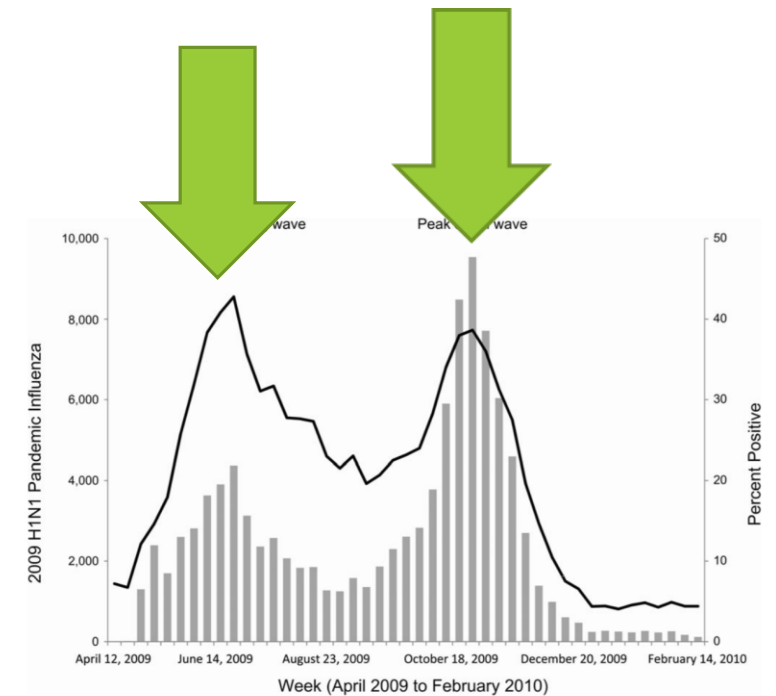
Current Alert Level: High

27.65 per 100,000 population

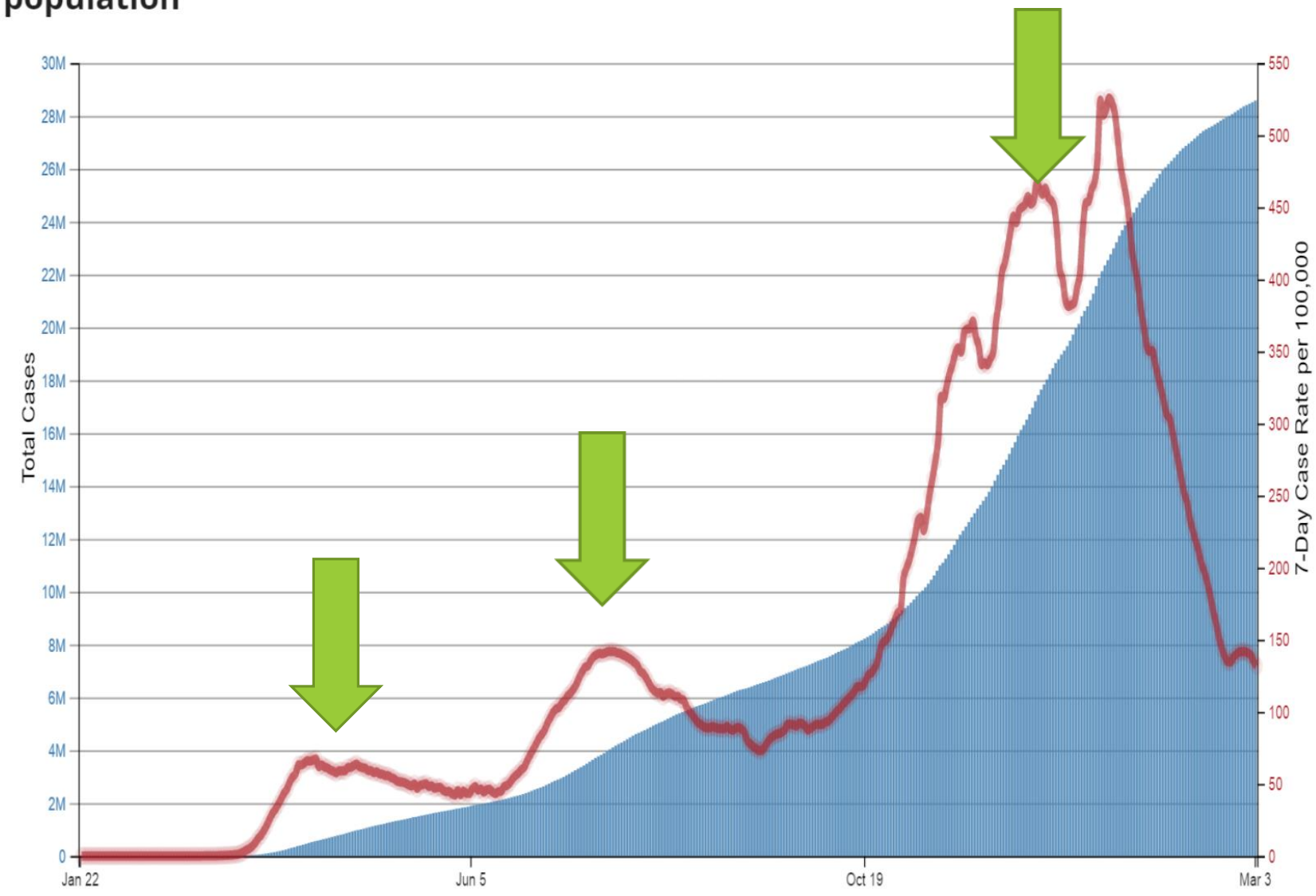
## Southeast: Northern

# Timeline of 2009 Influenza Pandemic

- April 15 First US Case and start of first wave of infections
- April 20, 2009 US Public Health Emergency declared
- October Second wave in US, first vaccines available
- Late December Vaccine available to all
- February 2010 Case rates below seasonal average
- June 23, 2010 US Public Health Emergency ended



Trends in Total and 7-Day Cumulative Incidence Rate of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC, per 100,000 population



**COVID Waves in US**

- Spring
- Summer
- Winter

**Cannot assume COVID will go away this Spring**

# What did we lose when the Emergency lapsed?

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- Required traveler testing at airports
  - Decreased participation in voluntary program
  - Increases chances of introducing virus variants into Alaska
- Flexibility and speed in response
  - Contracting, purchasing, alternative care sites for testing, vaccination, treatment
  - Medical licensing and reciprocity
  - Telehealth from providers outside of Alaska
- Official recognition of urgency about COVID epidemic
  - Sends an “All is well” signal to Alaskans when we need continued vigilance
    - Most Alaskans are not vaccinated or immune
  - Likely to result in people lowering their guard
    - Increased case counts mean more illness, suffering and death