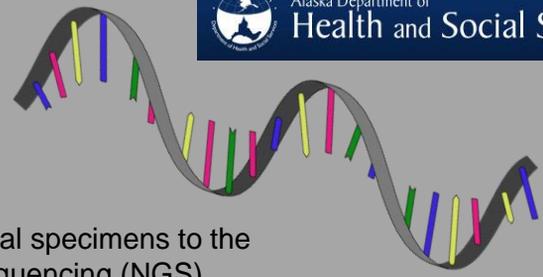


SARS-CoV-2 SEQUENCING



Guidance for the submission of positive SARS-CoV-2 viral specimens to the Alaska State Virology Laboratory for Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)

Why Sequence SARS-CoV-2?



NGS provides a comprehensive profile of viruses circulating within a population and helps the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in a number of ways, including:

Understanding viral transmission.

SARS-CoV-2 sequencing allows for monitoring viral spread both within and between populations over time, aiding targeted public health interventions aimed at reducing disease transmission.

Treatment and vaccine development.

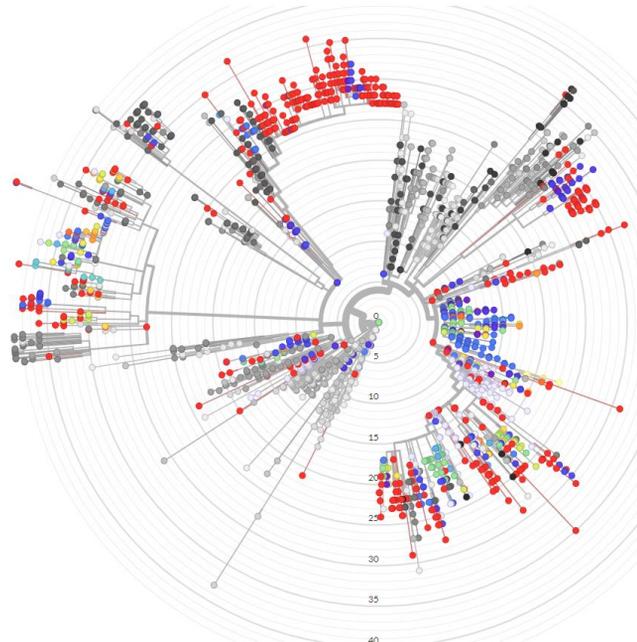
Knowledge of the viral RNA sequence assists in the design of therapies and vaccines that target specific features of the virus. This information provides an idea of how these therapies may change with an evolving virus.

Monitoring viral evolution.

Continually evaluating circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2 allows for the detection of genetic changes in the virus that may give rise of viral variants.

Genomic epidemiology of novel coronavirus - Alaska-focused subsampling

Built with [CDCgov/spheres-augur-build/](https://covid19.sph.harvard.edu/). Maintained by [CDC/AMD](https://covid19.sph.harvard.edu/).
Showing 2100 of 2100 genomes sampled between Dec 2019 and May 2021.



The genomic epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 with Alaskan genomes indicated in red and each concentric ring representing 1 nucleotide divergence between the viral genome and the original SARS-CoV-2 strain.
CDC/Spheres: <https://nextstrain.org/groups/spheres/hcov/alaska>

Submitting Positive Specimens to ASVL

1 What to Submit

Original VTM (Viral transport medium) or UTM (Universal transport medium) for confirmed POSITIVE specimens. Please include CT values if known.

2 How to Submit

Complete a SARS-CoV2 requisition form (found at: <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Documents/SARS-CoV-2RequestForm.pdf>) and select "SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Sequencing". This is for submitting known positives. It is not necessary to request PCR testing unless seeking confirmation of a positive result. All positive COVID specimens tested at Alaska State Labs are subsequently sequenced.

Package and ship specimens frozen or cold (on dry ice or with frozen ice packs) as Category B to:

Shipments via UPS or Fed Ex
Alaska State Virology Laboratory
1051 Sheenjek Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Shipments via USPS
Alaska State Virology Laboratory
P.O. Box 60230
Fairbanks, AK 99706