



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, CITY OF KETCHIKAN, AND CITY OF SAXMAN

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | 2nd POSITIVE CASE IN KETCHIKAN

Date: March 19, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-6605

For Immediate Release

We have received information from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that there has been a second positive test result for COVID-19 in Ketchikan. The individual has a history of travel to the lower 48. Upon experiencing symptoms of illness, the individual self-isolated and sought testing through a Ketchikan clinic. The individual is the spouse of the individual who had the first positive test result in Ketchikan.

Ketchikan Public Health officials have made contact with this individual and will continue to monitor their condition to ensure continued self-isolation. Public Health officials will initiate a contact investigation and reach out to any person who may have come into contact with this individual. Public Health will notify and isolate additional persons as appropriate.

We want to reassure the public that we are working closely with Ketchikan Public Health to identify anyone who may be at risk for having contact with this individual. We will keep the public informed of any information that is needed for community health and safety.

The Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) wants to encourage our citizens and travelers to continue to follow health alert guidance for the traveling public available on the webpage at: <https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/03172020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-004.pdf>

If you have traveled outside of Ketchikan, we strongly recommend that you self-isolate in your home for at least 14 days after your return.

If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, you should take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.coronavirus.alaska.gov.

Following the new recommendations from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, The Ketchikan Emergency Operation Center is providing the following guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

1. Listen to and follow the directions of your state and local authorities.
2. If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
3. If your children are sick, keep them at home. Contact your medical provider.
4. If someone in your household has tested positive for the Coronavirus, keep the entire household at home.
5. If you are an older American, stay home and away from other people.
6. If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition—such as a significant heart or lung problem—stay home and away from other people.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity

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