



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

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

Date: March 20, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

We have received information from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that there has been a third positive test result for COVID-19 in Ketchikan. Upon experiencing symptoms of illness, the individual self-isolated and sought testing through the PeaceHealth Medical Center Emergency Room. This individual was a close contact of the first identified positive case in Ketchikan. The individual is an employee of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and works at the White Cliff Building.

On March 17, 2020, following identification of an individual with a positive test result for COVID-19, the White Cliff Building was closed and will remain closed until April 1, 2020. The building has been thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected with a commercial disinfectant service. Borough employees in direct contact with the individual are self-isolating at home for a period of no less than 14 days. Borough employees are telecommuting and working from home.

Ketchikan Public Health officials have contacted 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. Through the contact investigation, Public Health will direct testing of persons that meet criteria based on contact with any confirmed case of COVID-19. Individuals who meet the criteria are being tested in accordance with CDC and State of Alaska priorities.

If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus, 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.

EOC information and the response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Ketchikan is updated daily on the COVID-19 Response page at <https://www.kgbak.us/913/COVID-19-Response>.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity

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