



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC UPDATES

Date: March 31, 2020; 6:00 p.m.
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

This brief responds to media questions and provides an update on information from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and its partner agencies.

COVID-19 Case Count Update

The number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan remains at thirteen (13). Of these cases, two (2) individuals had a recent history of travel, eleven (11) individuals were identified as having been in close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Category					
	Travel-Related	Non-Travel Related	Close Contact to Positive Case	Travel/Contact Under Investigation	Total Cases
Total by category	2	1	10	0	13

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date	
Date	# Cases
3/17/2020	1
3/19/2020	1
3/20/2020	1
3/21/2020	3
3/24/2020	3
3/25/2020	2
3/26/2020	1
3/28/2020	1
Total	13

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
9 out of 13 have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.
Criteria for release from monitoring/quarantine:
* At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
* At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

COVID-19 Testing Update

As of March 30, 2020, 114 tests have been conducted for COVID-19 in Ketchikan, with the following results:

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
114	13	64	37

Who Needs to Be in Quarantine?

We have received questions regarding who is required to be in quarantine. The following people must self-quarantine at home:

- Individuals who have been in close contact with a person known to be diagnosed with COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home for a period of no less than 14 days after the last date of contact with the positive case.
- Individuals who have recently traveled out of state must be self-quarantined at home for a period of no less than 14 days after arriving from another state.
- Individuals who are caring for someone with COVID-19 must remain in self-quarantine for a period of no less than 14 days after the last date of contact with the patient.

Ketchikan International Airport Updates

Alaska Airlines has announced that it will be decreasing its northbound and southbound flights to one flight per day in and out of Ketchikan. The exception to this will be Wednesdays and Sundays when there will be an additional southbound flight. Flights through Alaska are considered essential by Alaska Airlines and will continue.

In accordance with the State of Alaska Health Mandates #10 and #12, accommodations have been made at the airport for travel declaration forms to be provided. 49th State Security is providing assistance to travelers for completion of the forms.

Continue to Hunker Down

With the onset of warmer weather, it is natural to be out of doors and become more active. We encourage families to take advantage of the nice weather and spend time outside while following safe social distancing practices. Outdoor activity near your home is okay, and encouraged for your health and well-being, but always keep at least six feet between people who do not live in your immediate household. Social distancing requirements are in effect on paths, trails, sidewalks, riverbanks, parks, and anyplace outside on private or public property where people might gather.

Unfortunately, we received complaints that gatherings of more than ten people were occurring at Rotary Beach and South Point Higgins Beach, and as was announced on March 30th, those beaches as well as local playgrounds have been closed to the public until further notice. Our sports fields, trails, and other public areas remain open to users

following the State of Alaska social distancing guidance. Team sports and pickup games are prohibited. Groups of less than ten may only gather if those in the group are immediate family members.

30 Days to Slow the Spread – Excerpts from the White House Guideline Released Today

- Listen to and follow the directions of your STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
- IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home.
- IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.
- IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

EOC Information

The Ketchikan EOC Unified Command Objectives for response to the COVID-19 Emergency are:

- Safeguard the health and safety of personnel and the public
- Slow/stop the spread of COVID-19
- Increase COVID-19 testing capacity
- Care for the sick
- Provide public information
- Mitigate community/economic impact

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.coronavirus.alaska.gov. 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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