



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC UPDATES

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 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 fourteen (14). Of these cases, two (2) individuals had a recent history of travel, and 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	11	0	14

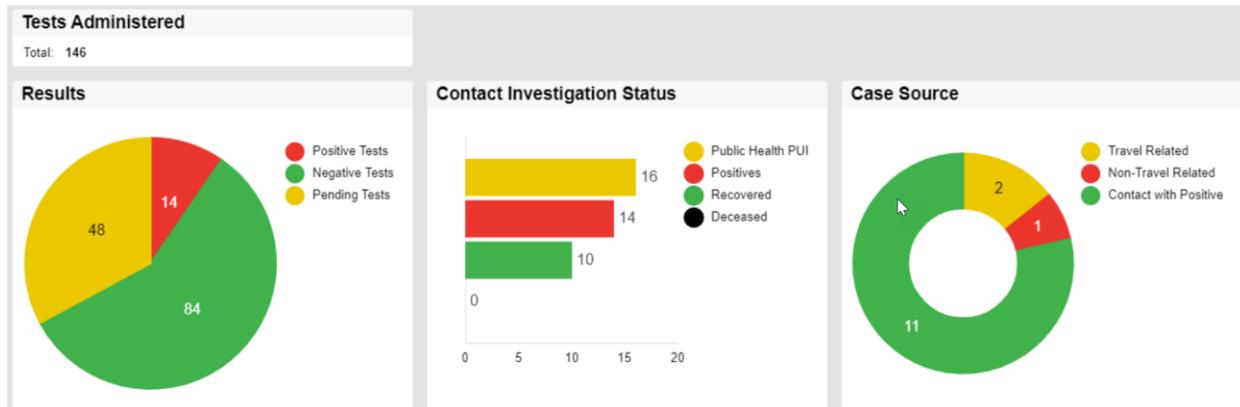
Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date	
Date	# Cases
3/17/2020	1
3/19/2020	1
3/20/2020	1
3/21/2020	3
3/24/2020	3
3/25/2020	2
3/26/2020	1
3/28/2020	1
4/1/2020	1
Total	14

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
10 out of 14 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

146 tests have been conducted for COVID-19 in Ketchikan, with the following results:

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
146	14	84	48



Why Can't We Disclose More Information About Each Case?

We receive many requests for additional information about the individuals who test positive for COVID-19. It is natural for our citizens to want to know whether they may have come in contact with someone who is carrying the virus. However, we can only share facts that are helpful for the community to know without making known the identity of the patients. There are many reasons why we cannot share personal or more detailed information about the patients.

Name and Personal Information: Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) certain information is confidential, including health-related and medical information. Each individual has the right to privacy and confidentiality of their health and medical information. Therefore, we cannot release the names or other identifying information about the individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. If a patient chooses to self-identify, they may do so. It is often appreciated by the community, but there is no requirement to do so.

Contact History: Many people have asked for the contact history of the individual who tested positive – i.e. when they went to the grocery store, etc. This information is not provided to the general public for two reasons: 1) it would identify the patient; and 2) it could provide a false sense of security. For instance, if we were to announce that someone with COVID-19 was shopping at a certain store at a certain time, some people may think that they are safe from contracting the virus if they were at the location an hour earlier. That is not the message that we want to send. Because this virus is so contagious, we need to assume that it can be contracted at any place where people

congregate. This is why we need to follow social distancing directives, hunker down, and stay home.

Public Health Conducts a Contact Investigation: The contact history of an individual who tested positive is fully investigated by Public Health officials. 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.

Ketchikan Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Inventory

The EOC is keeping an inventory of PPE available at the various health clinics, fire departments, and the EOC storage facility. Ketchikan currently has the following equipment available, with additional equipment on order:

Current Inventory	Quantity
N95 Masks (ea)	101
Surgical Masks (bx 50)	2966
Masks with Face Shields (bx 25)	1187
Hoods (ea)	16
Goggles (ea)	56
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	127
Gowns (bx 15)	95
PAPRs	7
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1931
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	412
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	309

Governor Extends Health Mandates 2 and 3

In an effort to protect Alaskans and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, On April 1st, Governor Dunleavy extended Health Mandates 2 and 3 to be effective until rescinded.

Health Mandate 2 was originally issued on March 16, 2020, and mandated that all libraries, archives, and museums shall be closed to the public from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020. This has been extended until further action by the Governor.

Health Mandate 3 was originally issued on March 17, 2020, and mandated that all bars, breweries, restaurants, food and beverage kiosks or trucks, and other establishments serving food or beverages within the State of Alaska, shall be closed to the public for

dine-in service. All buffets and salad bars are closed to self-service. This closure is now extended until rescinded by the Governor.

How Do We Stop the Spread?

Based on the **Alaska State mandates**, and the President's **30 Days to Stop the Spread**:

- Hunker down and shelter in place.
- Stay home and work from home as much as possible. Conduct business via telephonic or electronic means as much as possible.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- No gatherings of people outside of your immediate family may take place.
- If you are healthy and need to go to the grocery store, follow safe social distancing by staying 6 feet apart from each other.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer.
- Listen to and follow the directions of your State and Local authorities.
- 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.

Why Hunker Down, Shelter in Place, and Stay Home?

COVID-19 is highly contagious and easily transmitted. It can have a different effect on different individuals. No one is immune to COVID-19. While people are most infectious after the onset of symptoms, it is very possible for people to transmit COVID19 while exhibiting no symptoms. That is why it is so important to keep 6 feet away from other people, sneeze or cough into a tissue or your arm, wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, and avoiding touching your face.

It is imperative that folks continue to #hunkerdown, shelter in place, and stay home, in order to contain the spread of COVID-19. Parents are urged to keep children home, not schedule play dates, and avoid group gatherings in public areas.

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 or use the Testing Hotline and call 247-TEST (8378).

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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