



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

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC UPDATES**

Date: April 3, 2020; 6:00 p.m.  
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
 Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-6605

**For Immediate Release**

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

**COVID-19 Case Count Update**

There were no new cases of COVID-19 today. 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

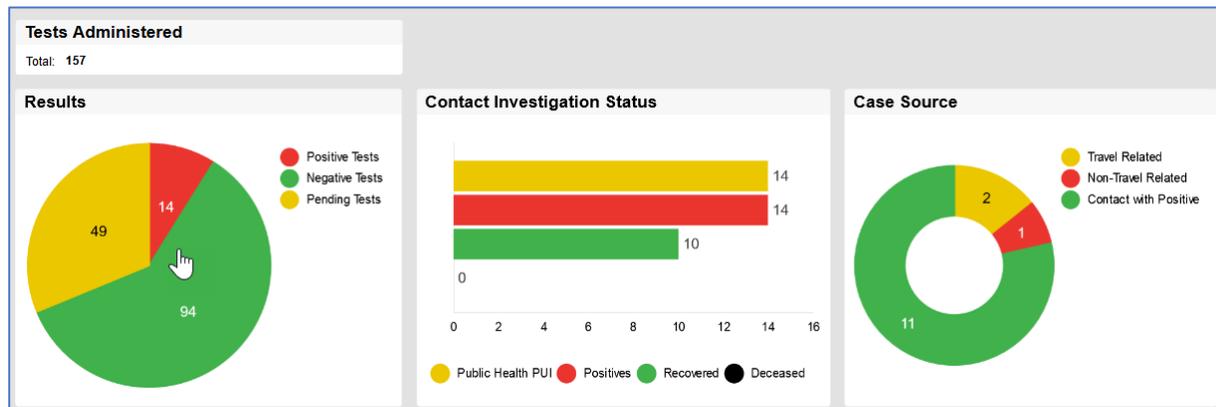
Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date	
Date	# Cases
3/17/2020	1
3/19/2020	1
3/20/2020	1
3/21/2020	3
3/24/2020	3
3/25/2020	2
3/26/2020	1
3/28/2020	1
4/1/2020	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
10 out of 14 have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.
<b>Criteria for release from monitoring/quarantine:</b>
* 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

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

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
157	14	94	49



## 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)	221
Surgical Masks (bx 50)	525
Masks with Face Shields (bx 25)	59
PAPR Hoods (ea)	16
Goggles (ea)	56
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	127
Gowns (15pk)	95
PAPR (ea)	7
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1931
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	412
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	309

## Transportation Updates

**Ketchikan International Airport:** As of today, the airport has a 93% decline in traveling passengers compared to the same date last year. Alaska Airlines has decreased its northbound and southbound flights to one flight per day in and out of Ketchikan,

with the exception of Wednesdays and Sundays when there will be an additional flight. Flights through Alaska are considered essential by Alaska Airlines and will continue.

The airport law enforcement officers are assisting arriving passengers with the required travel declaration forms in accordance with the State of Alaska Health Mandates #10 and #12.

Video messaging reminding travelers of the Alaska Health Mandates is now being shown on the multimedia screen in the baggage area of the lower level of the airport.

**Harbor and Seaplane Facilities:** Today, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) issued a press release regarding state-owned harbor and seaplane facilities. At this time, all [state-owned harbor facilities](#) and [seaplane bases](#) across Alaska will remain open and fully operational. Harbors and seaplane bases are a critical lifeline across Alaska and provide essential access for life, health, commerce and safety. State-owned harbor facilities provide an important refuge for marine users in inclement weather or emergencies. DOT&PF continues to monitor conditions closely, and should situations warrant, the department will coordinate any requests to close a seaplane base with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As of today, the FAA is not ready to approve airport closures.

### **EOC Actions to Assist the Homeless Services**

A press release was issued earlier today providing a summary of the actions to date to provide a 24-hour facility for our homeless population during this state of emergency. The press release can be viewed on the Borough or City's Facebook page or on the community's COVID-19 Response website at <https://www.kgbak.us/913/COVID-19-Response>.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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, including a new interactive GIS map for the COVID-19 case count is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/> 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  
# # #