



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 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
Total	14

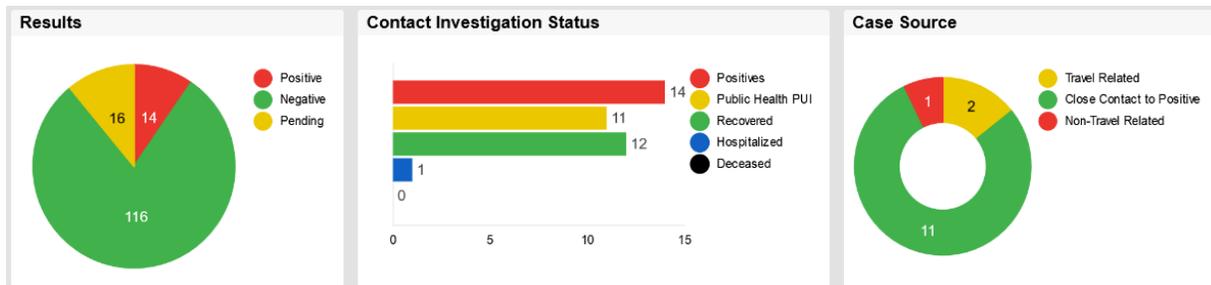
Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
12 out of 14 have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.
Criteria for release from monitoring/quarantine:
* At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications 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

As we go through our process to verify numbers of tests and supplies from healthcare providers, we are working to compile the data in a manner that is both accurate and easy for the public to understand. As such, we have made corrections in the data being provided. The numbers below are the current and accurate data and provide a correction to previous data provided.

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

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
146	14	116	16



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)	1,137
Surgical Masks (ea)	2,811
Masks with Face Shields (ea)	325
Goggles (ea)	56
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	884
Gowns (ea)	1,600
PAPR (ea)	33
PAPR Hoods (ea)	173
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1995
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	17,575
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	108

Testing Information

We have received questions regarding broader testing capacity and the recovery process for COVID-19 patients.

Some individuals have inquired about testing for people who may have at one time had COVID-19 and recovered. This type of testing would have the purpose of testing for a cure. Ketchikan medical providers are not pursuing this type of testing at this time, as it exceeds our capacity and resources to do so. At this time, Ketchikan health facilities only have the capacity to test patients who meet the CDC and DHSS criteria for testing for COVID-19. We do not currently have the capacity or materials to provide a broad-based testing. While we agree that mass testing capabilities would likely allow for many who are currently socially distancing to return to work, we simply do not have the testing capacity to do so. This is why it is imperative that people continue to hunker down and follow the social distancing guidelines in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Currently, tests are not processed locally, but are sent to either a State Public Health Lab with a one-to-two day processing and turnaround response time, or to a private lab which can have a two to five day processing and turnaround time.

PeaceHealth Medical Center has established an alternate testing site to be used on an as-needed basis and by referral from Public Health in conjunction with ongoing contact investigations. The alternate site allows for a testing facility away from the center's routine medical operations. The EOC is working on plans for two additional locations for testing sites. The Creekside Family Medical Clinic and the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) Health Clinic have agreed to provide alternate testing sites at the point that they are requested to do so by the EOC. The additional sites would be drive-through testing services.

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.

Following the release from quarantine, these patients are allowed to go back to work. With the above criteria met, these individuals are no longer infectious or contagious.

Continue to Hunker Down

We want to remind everyone to continue to hunker down and stay home. Our community has done an incredible job of flattening the curve, but in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 we must continue practicing social distancing. Remember to stay home, avoid public spaces, and maintain a distance of six feet between yourself and others outside of your immediate family.

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
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