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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC UPDATES

Date: April 9, 2020; 6:15 p.m.
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

This brief responds to questions received by the EOC, and 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.

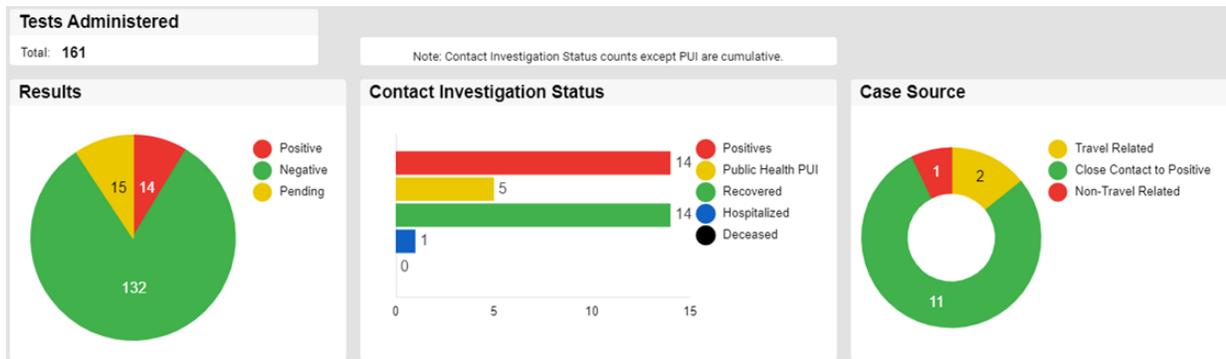| Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Category					
	Travel-Related	Non-Travel Related	Close Contact to Positive Case	Travel/Contact Under Investigation	Total Cases
Total by category	2	1	11	0	14

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

All 14 of the 14 cases have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.

Criteria for release from monitoring/isolation:

* 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

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

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
161	14	132	15

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)	1518
Surgical Masks (ea)	18425
Masks with Face Shields	1378
Goggles (ea)	103
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	775
Gowns (ea)	1618
Gowns heavy duty (ea)	3
Gowns Kit, full isolation	4
Hoods	16
PAPR (ea)	33
PAPR Hoods (ea)	120
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1874
Hand Sanitizer (16oz pump)	24
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	14375
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	109

Updates to Governor's Health Mandates

Tonight Governor Dunleavy issued Health Mandate 013, as well as issued updates to Health Mandates 006, 011, and 012.

Health Mandate 13 supersedes Health Mandate 008, and extends the statewide public and private school closure from May 1, 2020 to the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Health Mandate 006 on Elective Oral Health Procedures is in effect until rescinded.

Health Mandate 011 on Social Distancing is in effect until April 21, 2020.

Health Mandate 012 on Intrastate Travel, limiting travel between communities, is in effect until April 21, 2020.

The State of Alaska Health Mandates are available at: https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/.

Update on Testing Criteria

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services issues a Public Health Alert today: *Updated Procedures for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing in Alaska*. Included in the health alert is guidance for testing at Alaska State Public Health Labs with a lower threshold for testing. This is because many patience with COVID-19 present with a very mild illness. Guidance has been recommended to consider testing persons who meet the following characteristics:

- New onset of any one of the following: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, OR
- New onset of two or more of the following: chills, diminished sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, fatigue, fever (measured or subjective), headache, muscle/joint aches, nausea, rigors, runny nose, sore throat, or sputum production.

Patient Criteria	Send Specimens to
• Hospitalized • Patients, residents, and staff in any setting where healthcare services are delivered (e.g., hospital, department of corrections, mental/behavioral health clinics, long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities) • Persons and staff in other institutional or congregate settings (e.g., corrections, juvenile detention centers, homeless shelters) • First responder (e.g., police, fire, paramedic) • Household member of a health care provider • Known close contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days • An outpatient who is at increased risk for serious illness (i.e., age ≥60 years or has one or more select chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or immunocompromised)	ASPHL*
• Out-of-state travel in the past 14 days • Persons working in critical infrastructure occupations (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, gas stations, public utilities, etc.) • Any other patient as determined by clinical discretion	Other Laboratory (e.g., Commercial)
• Asymptomatic persons	DO NOT TEST

Alaska State Public Health Laboratory supplies are limited, so please follow the preferred laboratory guidance closely.

Temporary Emergency Homeless Shelter Operations
As was reported in our April 3rd press release, 24-hour homeless services, to replace the First City Homeless Services day shelter and overnight warming center, are now being provided at the Gateway Recreation Center. The Park Avenue Temporary Home (PATH) shelter has also gone to a 24-hour services schedule. Staff from the City and Borough, as well as First City Homeless Services staff, worked together to set up the new shelter at the recreation center. The center is now fully staffed and has been operational since April 7th. The term of the agreement will be through May 15, 2020, or until the end of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's disaster emergency declaration, whichever occurs later.

Seasonal and Fishing Industry Essential Service Plans
In accordance with the State of Alaska mandates 11 and 12, fishing industry workers that must enter Alaska, or travel between communities within Alaska to begin work on critical infrastructure before their self-quarantine period is complete must submit a plan or protocol for maintaining critical infrastructure to the Alaska Unified Command as soon as possible.

The plan must outline protective measures your business will enact in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger lives in the communities in which you operate, of others who serve as a part of that infrastructure or the ability of that critical infrastructure to function. Plans can be submitted by email to akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com, and use the name of your business at the start of the email subject line, and the start of the file name of any attached files.

In an effort to help the seasonal business owners, we have developed a website with the mandates, instructions for the critical infrastructure plans, and guidance for how to develop the plans. The website is available at https://www.kgbak.us/917/The-Fishing-Industry-Seasonal-Workers.

Unemployment Updates
As we mentioned in the April 8th media release, we are aware that Ketchikan households and businesses are being hit hard by the increasingly detrimental economic effects of COVID-19. In addition to the programs for businesses, there are also programs and assistance available to individuals who are not working at this time.

Due to the recent COVID-19 emergency measures, the Alaska Unemployment Insurance Program is switching to a single-week filing process. Once you file a new claim, or reopen an existing claim, you must file for payment of benefits the first Sunday through Saturday following your application submission, and then every week following to be eligible for payment.

At this time, the Alaska Department of Labor is still working to incorporate additional benefits from the CARES Act into their system. For those not familiar, the CARES Act creates emergency relief to unemployed workers affected by COVID-19. This act will provide Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to individuals that are self-employed and not eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation which provides an additional $600 payment for any eligible week of regular UI benefits, and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation which provides federal UI payments to someone who has exhausted all of their regular UI benefits. Alaska will continue to update their information concerning the CARES Act once it becomes available.

For more in depth information go to https://labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/COVID-19.htm.

For information on programs assisting businesses during this time of crisis, visit the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce resource page at www.ketchikanchamber.com/covid-19-updates.

Social Distancing is Working for Ketchikan
Ketchikan's social distancing efforts are working and we are seeing the positive results with the lack of positive COVID-19 cases this week. We need to stay the course and continue to hunker down. We are strong, and we can do this for a long-term result.

We are not yet looking at relaxing social distancing because we believe there may be people in the community who may have COVID-19 but are early on in the virus and are asymptomatic. It is important to maintain the separation from other people and limit movement as much as possible in order to stop the spread.

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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