



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

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

Date: April 17, 2020; 6:00 p.m.  
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
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**For Immediate Release**

This brief provides a summary of the topics presented at today's *Facebook Live Session* by Mayor Seludo, Mayor Sivertsen, Mayor Dial, and Incident Commander Hoage, 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 fifteen (15). Of these cases, two (2) individuals had a recent history of travel, and twelve (12) individuals were identified as having been in close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. All 15 cases have recovered.

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	12	0	15

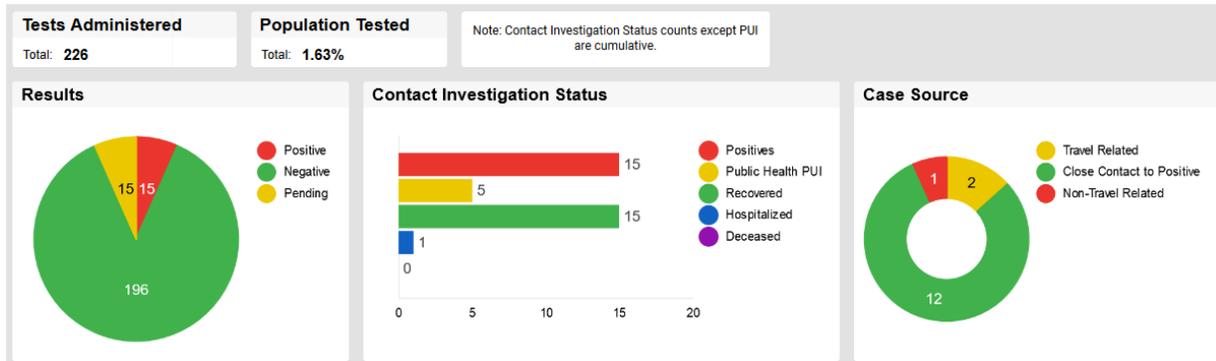
Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date	
Date	# Cases
3/17/2020	1
3/19/2020	1
3/20/2020	1
3/21/2020	3
3/24/2020	3
3/25/2020	2
3/26/2020	1
3/28/2020	1
4/1/2020	1
4/11/2020	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
All 15 of the 15 cases have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.
<b>Criteria for release from monitoring/isolation:</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

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

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
226	15	196	15



Combined efforts of the EOC and local medical providers has resulted in a significant increase in testing supplies. The combined test capacity in Ketchikan today is just over 600.

Ketchikan now has 5 Abbott Labs ID Now Point of Care rapid testing machines and just over 200 test cartridges. These devices are currently in use at the PeaceHealth Medical Center and Ketchikan Indian Community.

Current State of Alaska test criteria and local test capacity provide us with the ability to begin testing any symptomatic person. If you or someone you know needs testing contact your regular provider or our testing hotline at 247-TEST (8378)

In addition, with the supplies we have on order and the opening up of some of the supply chains, we hope to increase the number of available testing kits to close to 3,500 in the next two weeks. Of course, the time table for the supply delivery is subject to change. Once we receive these additional tests, we intend to begin offering drive-through testing.

### 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)	1481
Surgical Masks (ea)	40549
Masks with Face Shields	1458
Goggles (ea)	101
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	1022
Gowns (ea)	1478
Gowns heavy duty (ea)	3

Gowns Kit, full isolation	4
Hoods	16
PAPR (ea)	33
PAPR Hoods (ea)	115
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1849
Hand Sanitizer (8oz bottle)	80
Hand Sanitizer (16oz pump)	24
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	43015
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	403

### **Homeless Shelter Operations at Gateway Recreation Center;**

Through a cooperative agreement between the Borough and City of Ketchikan, the Gateway Recreation Shelter is now being used as a temporary emergency shelter for our homeless population. We want to assure the public that every effort is being taken to meet the needs of this population and to also protect our community building. Here is a summary of how the operation is working:

- 24-hour shelter services are being provided with 2-4 staff members on duty at all times.
- 3 meals a day are prepared offsite and delivered through services provided by the First City Homeless Services, Salvation Army, and the Lord's Table (Episcopal Church)
- Protective floor coverings are covering all floors being used.
- The areas being used are the gymnasium, racquetball courts, foyer area, and restrooms.
- Access to the second floor and offices is closed off.
- The gymnasium is used for overnight sleeping with 40 cots; there are two areas divided separately for men and women.
- The racquetball courts are used for quarantine/isolation areas as appropriate.
- 49<sup>th</sup> State Security is providing on site security services 8 hours per day and hourly patrols for an additional 8 hours. We will be increasing that to on-site 15 hours per day and hourly for an additional 6 hours beginning tomorrow.
- As part of this increase, the residential area and school property near the shelter will also be monitored.

### **Beach Openings and Gradual Opening of Local Services**

Ketchikan's efforts to practice safe social distancing have been successful. We have seen the results by the decreased number of COVID-19 cases in Ketchikan in recent weeks. Because of this, we were able to reopen Rotary Beach and South Point Higgins Beach to the public. We have also opened the Saxman Beach and Saxman Totem Park to the public. We ask that you continue to take advantage of the good weather to be outside, and follow safe social distancing practices such as staying 6 feet apart from others, and only gathering with your immediate family.

Additionally, the Borough is looking into options for gradually providing increased animal protection services, including pet adoptions. Borough staff is balancing the health and safety of staff and the public, with the requests to provide animal adoptions.

### **President Trump's 3-Phase Plan to Reopen Economy**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, President Trump announced a 3-step plan to safely reopen parts of our economy. President Trump has unveiled *Guidelines for Opening Up America Again*, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts. These steps will help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives. The steps are contingent on the ability of a community to provide adequate COVID-19 tests and to have a capacity for caring for the sick should a spike in positive cases occur after reopening.

Phase One of the President's plan includes:

- **First** making sure testing capacity and health care systems are in place as well as plans for critical industry workers, high risk care providers, transit users, social distancing protocols
- **PHASE ONE for individuals** would include keeping vulnerable individuals home; continuing social distancing; and minimizing travel;
- **PHASE ONE for businesses** would include working from home whenever possible; returning to work in phases; and closing common areas; enforcing strict social distancing protocols; keeping schools and daycares closed; prohibiting visits to senior facilities; bars remain closed; establishing strict protocol for other venues.

**Phases 2 and 3** would open up more areas of the economy after satisfying certain criteria at a minimum of 14 days after the first phase.

President Trump's guidelines: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

### **Governor Dunleavy's Efforts to Reopen Economy**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Governor Dunleavy issued Mandate 15 – Services by Healthcare providers, which supersedes Mandates 5 and 6 and allows for medical services to be reinstated:

- Urgent and Emergent Care continue as they are today with enhanced screening and safety measures;
- Procedures that required minimal protective equipment can resume on Monday 4/20;
- All other Non-Urgent/Non-Emergent Elective procedures can resume on 5/4.

The Governor holds a daily press conference at 5:00 p.m. in which he has been announcing his plans to slowly start reopening segments of the economy. He has stressed that this is possible because of the effective social distancing and the community's results in flattening the curve. As long as the number of cases of the virus remains at a level that the health care professionals have the capacity to address, the Governor will be able to go forward with opening the economy.

Governor Dunleavy reached out to Borough Mayor Dial to invite community input regarding which areas of the economy should be opened and whether certain sections of the health mandates should be amended or extended. Mayor Dial is coordinating with the EOC, and with Borough and City staff and officials, in order for a response to be provided to the Governor by April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Governor's health mandates: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

### **Services available for Individuals and Businesses**

The Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, Borough Planning Department and the local EOC have created the Business Economy Recovery Group, or, BERG. Its primary focus is to provide economic support and resources to local businesses and households.

The BERG has created and regularly updates a list of COVID-19 resources for businesses and employees. This list is on the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce website, [www.ketchikanchamber.com](http://www.ketchikanchamber.com).

The BERG is reaching out to local businesses to determine their needs and keep them connected with their customers. With this information, the BERG will develop an online Business Directory on the Chamber site, so Ketchikan residents can shop locally and support community businesses.

There are many resources available on the Chamber's COVID-19 Updates page:

For employees affected by the pandemic, there are links to the State of Alaska's unemployment resources, the Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Emergency Family and Medical Leave provisions of the CARES Act, and information on the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.

For local businesses, there are links to state and local mandates, information on tax credits for small businesses, provisions within the CARES Act, and programs administered by the Small Business Administration.

Although currently the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program and SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program have exhausted their allocations and are not accepting applications, it is anticipated that additional funds will soon be allocated to these programs. The BERG will keep apprised of developments and update the Chamber COVID-19 page accordingly.

SBA Bridge Loans are available for small businesses that currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly. Talk to your lender for more specifics on this loan.

If you are interested in submitting comments, questions, and/or suggestions related to the effect of Covid-19 on Ketchikan's economy, the BERG can be reached at [businessrecovery@kgbak.us](mailto:businessrecovery@kgbak.us).

### **Seasonal Business and Fishing Industry workforce plans;**

The EOC has appointed a Seasonal Industry Planning Unit Leader to work with local seafood processors and seasonal businesses to ensure that the proper plans are in place as required by the Governor's health mandates. Review of these plans once received will be accomplished by EOC Staff and a small team of other individuals including:

1. City Fire Code Official
2. City Building Code Official
3. Public Health
4. City and Borough Attorneys

As the EOC staff reviews the submitted plans it is the intention to further engage with seafood processors to ensure the final plans meet not only the minimum standards set by the State but the needs and desires of the local community. There are procedures in place for seafood processors and for small independent Fishing Vessels.

The State of Alaska anticipates releasing a mandate covering this group in order to avoid a patchwork of requirements that vary widely from one jurisdiction to the next and making it easier for these independent operations to work safely and continue to compete with the larger fishing companies that have the ability to develop corporate plans. The local community protection plan includes:

- A 14-day quarantine period upon arrival must be undertaken. Time spent at sea with crew, with no outside contact, is considered part of the quarantine period when arriving in state or going from port to port. (Note: This is a clarification we have been seeking regarding the commencement of the quarantine period for vessels)
- Vessel crew would be required to follow all State and local mandates related to quarantines.
- Crew could serve their quarantine on the vessels or at designated quarters ashore.
- Crew would not be allowed to stop at grocery stores or other locations during quarantine but would have to transit directly to and from the vessel. All groceries or other supplies would have to be delivered to the vessel following appropriate social distancing and disinfecting protocols.
- Mooring and fueling operations would also have to be conducted following appropriate social distancing and disinfecting protocols.

### **Thank You to Community for Ongoing Social Distancing**

Ketchikan's social distancing efforts are working and we are seeing the positive results with the lack of positive COVID-19 cases this week. With the extension of Governor Dunleavy's Health Mandates through April 21, 2020, we urge the community to continue to practice safe social distancing. We have had only one positive case since April 1st. Social distancing is difficult, but we can work together for the best result of our community. We encourage our residents to:

- Take advantage of opportunities to get out doors and exercise.
- Continue looking out for each other
- Wear cloth masks in public.
- Wash your hands.
- Don't touch your face.
- Stay home if you are sick.

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:

1. Safeguard the health and safety of personnel and the public
2. Slow/stop the spread of COVID-19

3. Increase COVID-19 testing capacity
4. Care for the sick
5. Provide public information
6. Mitigate community/economic impact

Additional current information is available on the State of Alaska's new collaborative website at [www.covid19.alaska.gov](http://www.covid19.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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