



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

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

Date: April 20, 2020; 6:00 p.m.  
 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**

Ketchikan received one positive case of COVID-19 today, bringing the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan to sixteen (16). Of these cases, two (2) individuals had a recent history of travel, and thirteen (13) 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	13	0	16

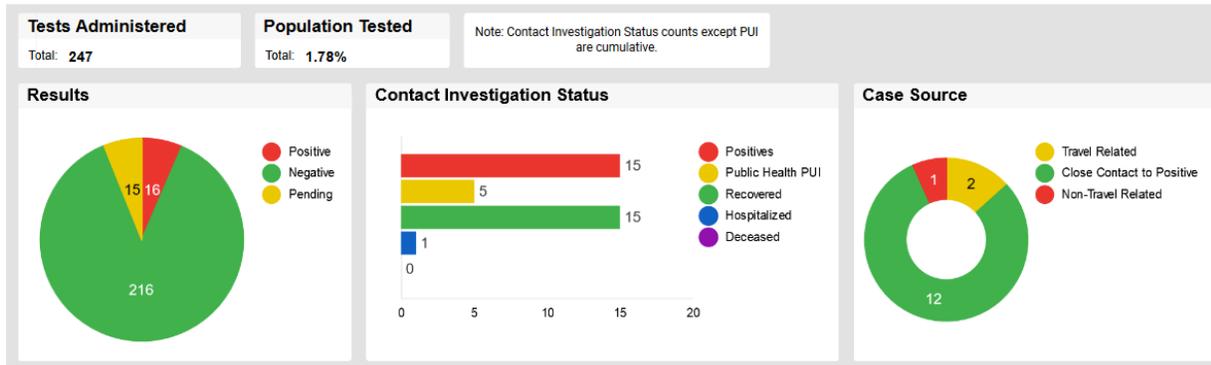
Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date	
Date	# Cases
3/17/2020	1
3/19/2020	1
3/20/2020	1
3/21/2020	3
3/24/2020	3
3/25/2020	2
3/26/2020	1
3/28/2020	1
4/1/2020	1
4/11/2020	1
4/20/2020	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
15 of the 16 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

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

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
247	16	216	15



The combined test capacity in Ketchikan today is just over 600.

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

### **Efforts to Reopen Economy**

President Trump's *Guidelines for Opening Up America Again* were announced on April 16 as 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.

Governor Dunleavy has reached out to Alaskan communities for input on how to reopen Alaska's economy. 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.

The Ketchikan EOC, in cooperation with local City and Borough officials, has compiled recommendations for how Alaska, and specifically Ketchikan, can begin to slowly open the economy in a phased approach while focusing on the testing capacity and healthcare resources in each community. The recommendations will be provided to the Governor on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

### **Animal Shelter Expands Operations**

As of April 21, the Pat Wise Animal Shelter will expand emergency operations to resume limited adoptions, acceptance of animals for surrender and the retrieval of stray animals for return to owners.

Adoptions will be permitted by appointment only. Individuals interested in adopting can begin by viewing animals online at: <https://www.borough.ketchikan.ak.us/131/Animal-Protection>. Individuals wishing to schedule an adoption appointment may call 228-6660. Appointments will be scheduled in 30-minute intervals Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Access will be restricted to one adult per visit and individuals will be required to wear their own facemask or face covering during the appointment. The Borough Animal Protection Department will provide nitrile gloves for each visitor to the shelter. Social distancing standards will be strictly adhered to during visits.

Shelter staff will once again begin retrieving stray animals. Residents may call the shelter to request assistance with a stray animal. Individuals wishing to surrender an animal or claim an impounded animal may call 228-6660 to set up an appointment.

The shelter will not be accepting visitors or volunteers at this time. As the community moves forward in the COVID-19 pandemic recovery process, visitor restrictions will be repealed.

Last month, the Borough closed its public facilities in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. The closures were in compliance with Governor Dunleavy's health mandates. Through the public closure, Animal Protection Department staff has continued to care for the existing animal population.

### **Ongoing Social Distancing**

Ketchikan's social distancing efforts are working and we are seeing the positive results with the minimal 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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