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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC UPDATES

Date: May 1, 2020
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 additional cases of COVID-19 reported in Ketchikan today. The total number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan remains at 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.

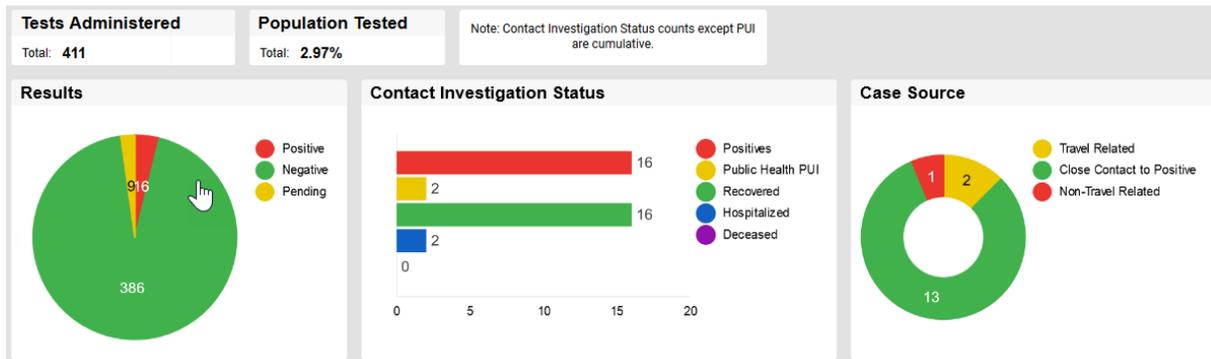| Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Category					
	Travel-Related	Non-Travel Related	Close Contact to Positive Case	Travel/Contact Under Investigation	Total Cases
Total by category	2	1	13	0	16

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
Total	16

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information

16 of the 16 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

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

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
411	16	386	9

If you experience <u>any</u> symptoms of COVID-19, contact your regular provider or our testing hotline at 247-TEST (8378)	Testing capacity:	
	Current Test kits:	1,374
	Test kits on order:	10,000
	Test kits expected within 2 weeks:	1,574

Ketchikan Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Inventory

Ketchikan currently has the following PPE equipment available, with additional equipment on order:

Current Inventory	Quantity
N95 Masks (ea)	1266
Surgical Masks (ea)	44049
Masks with Face Shields	1777
Goggles (ea)	101
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	1096
Gowns (ea)	1385
Gowns heavy duty (ea)	3
Gowns Kit, full isolation	4
Hoods	16
PAPR (ea)	33
PAPR Hoods (ea)	115
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1815
Hand Sanitizer (8oz bottle)	80
Hand Sanitizer (16oz pump)	24
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	37815
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	563
Cloth face masks	20

Increased Testing Capacity

The increased testing numbers and percentage of our population tested is directly related to our proactive testing efforts. With the increased COVID-19 testing capacity in Ketchikan, and the updated State health guidance for testing, we have been conducting more tests and will be targeting various groups of people for testing. Please see the revised testing criteria below for an example of the types of people who may be targeted for testing.

We continue to encourage anyone experiencing any of the following symptoms to seek testing:
- fever, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing,
- chills, diminished sense of taste or smell, diarrhea,
- fatigue, headache, muscle/joint aches, nausea, rash,
- runny nose, sore throat, or cough.

If you experience any of these symptoms or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your health care provider or call our testing hotline at **247-TEST (8378).**

Testing Criteria Revisions

On April 28th, Alaska health officials released two new guidance documents for COVID-19 testing in Alaska:

1. Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing in Alaska
   - Test anybody in Alaska who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
   - Targeted testing for asymptomatic persons
     - Per Mandate 15
       - Upon admission to a health care facility
       - For patients undergoing urgent/emergent procedures that put health care personnel at high exposure risk (starting May 4)
     - Other settings where asymptomatic testing may be considered
       - Health care workers in hospitals and congregate living settings
       - Residents in congregate living settings (see the Alaska DPH guidance on this)
       - Other high-consequence settings (e.g., people coming in to remote communities from areas where COVID-19 is circulating)
       - People involved in discrete outbreaks (in consultation with public health
2. Interim Guidance on SARS-CoV-2 Testing for Asymptomatic Residents Being Admitted to Congregate Living Facilities
   - This guidance is for administrators and health care providers affiliated with congregate living facilities that serve persons who typically remain at the facility for a sustained period of time (at least 14 days).
   - This includes skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, residential treatment facilities, and correctional facilities.

The current Alaska testing guidance is available at:
http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/testing.aspx#guidelines

Ketchikan's Response to COVID-19
Phase One to Reopen Alaska is being done because of the positive results of social distancing and flattening the curve. Because Ketchikan has been diligent to follow the mandates so far, we are able to begin to slowly open the economy.

We do expect to see a small increase in cases of COVID-19 with the opening of the economy. With the phased approach, and with the increase in testing capacity and careful monitoring of healthcare resources, we expect the small increase in case count to be manageable.

We are in close coordination with the Governor's Office, State DHSS, SEOC, and local health providers. If there is a spike in COVID-19 cases, there will be action taken to address it.

COVID-19 Rules Regarding Travelers and Essential Businesses
We continue to receive inquiries about travelers, fishing and seasonal workers arriving in Ketchikan and how the mandates apply to those workers. Several of the mandates apply to people arriving to town for work or for fishing.

Health Mandate 10 – International and Interstate Travel – Extended through May 19
- 14-Day Self-Quarantine
- Traveler Declaration Form

Health Mandate 12 – Limiting Travel between Communities to Critical Infrastructure of Critical Needs – In Effect Until Rescinded

Businesses with workers who travel from out of state or who travel between communities within the state of Alaska must submit a plan or protocol outlining protocols for avoiding spread of COVID-19 pursuant to Health Mandates 010 and 012. This plan should be submitted to akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com

Health Mandate 16 – Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan / Non-Essential Businesses
Governor Dunleavy, with Dr. Anne Zink, and DHSS Commissioner Crum, announced the *Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan* which became effective Friday, April 24th. The mandate as well as the attachments and guidance documents for restaurants, retail, personal services, non-public facing businesses, public-facing businesses, fishing charters, churches, gyms, lodges and camping, childcare, intrastate travel and activities, and graduation ceremonies, are available at: https://covid19.alaska.gov/reopen/

Health Mandate 17 – Protective Measures for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels
- Enacts protective measures for independent commercial fishing vessels operating within Alaskan waters and ports in order to prevent, slow, and otherwise disrupt the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The mandate requires protective measures and plans, and includes two appendices:
  1. The Alaska Protective Plan for Commercial Fishing Vessels
  2. Mandate 17 Acknowledgement Form

Required social distancing plans and requirements for bed and breakfasts, and hotels, are included in the Alaska Health Mandate 16, specifically Attachment L "Lodging and Overnight Camping." The mandate includes protocols for social distancing, staffing, cleaning, and dining.

Fish processors, as well as any essential businesses with workers arriving in Alaska are required to have plans in place approved by the State. All three of the local processors have been good community partners and are working closely and collaborating with the EOC on the development of their plans. All three have recently had their plans reviewed by the State of Alaska and been informed that they have met the minimum requirements as outlined by the State. These plans are really working documents that will need to be modified as the COVID-19 situation changes.

Workers arriving from out of state still have to quarantine for 14-days but they are allowed to work during their quarantine provided they can do so in accordance with the plan. If they are quarantining at a location outside the plant (residence or hotel, etc.) they can travel only between the quarantine location and the plant. No other stops are allowed. Processors are free to coordinate with local hotels to quarantine employees and some have chosen to do so. Local hotels are responsible for their procedures and compliance as outlined in Mandate 16 attachment L.

Individuals and business owners should carefully read the new mandates and related guidelines available at https://covid19.alaska.gov/reopen/

All health mandates are available at https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/.

Individuals, travelers, and business owners can submit questions to covidquestions@alaska.gov.

Circle of Support for Families
The State Emergency Operations Center issued a press release earlier today encouraging families to create a "Circle of Support" by preparing for additional care providers in the event that primary care providers become ill. According to the guidance, families are encouraged to create a plan for what to do if the caregiver(s) in the household become ill with COVID-19 and cannot safely provide care for children. A resource document has been created by *Alaskans for Alaska familie*s to guide families with how to create the plan. Plans should include "go-bags" for children consisting of:

- A written copy of the plan and contact number for each member of the Circle of Support
- At least a week's worth of clothing
- A list of any known allergies and needed medications
- Comfort items such as a blanket and favorite stuffed animal
- A contact list with phone numbers and addresses of people with whom the children routinely have regular communications

The resource document is available here: https://covid19.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Planning-for-Families-with-Children-0428.pdf

Take it Slow and Practice Social Distancing
As non-essential businesses and service providers start to open up, remember to take things slow. In order to continue to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19, it is important that we all take measured steps in changing our routines. We urge the community to take it slow and continue to practice safe social distancing. Please remember to:
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wear cloth masks in public.
- Stay at least six feet away from others in public settings.
- Wash your hands.
- Don't touch your face.

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 website at 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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