



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

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

Date: May 29, 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**

The total number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan remains at sixteen (16).

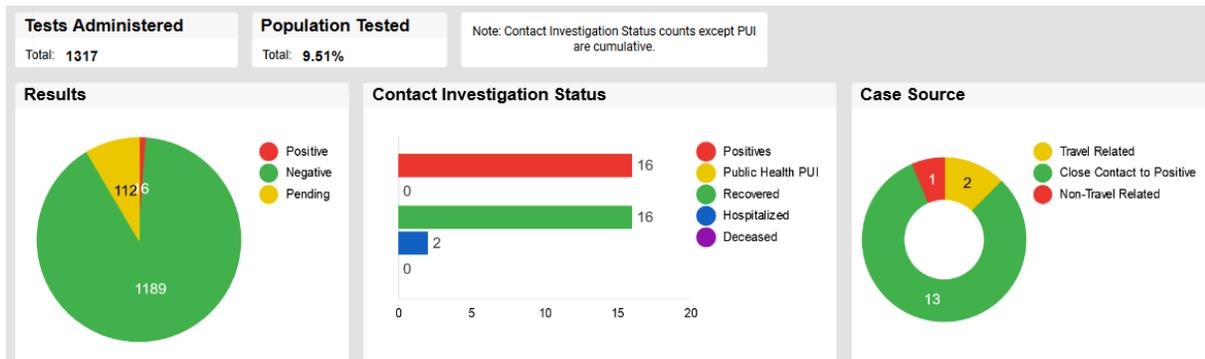
<b>Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Category</b>					
	Travel-Related	Non-Travel Related	Close Contact to Positive Case	Travel/Contact Under Investigation	Total Cases
Total by category	2	1	13	0	16

<b>Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date</b>	
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

<b>Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information</b>
<p>16 of the 16 cases have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.</p> <p>Criteria for release from monitoring/isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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,</li> <li>• At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</li> </ul>

### COVID-19 Testing Update

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
1317	16	1189	112



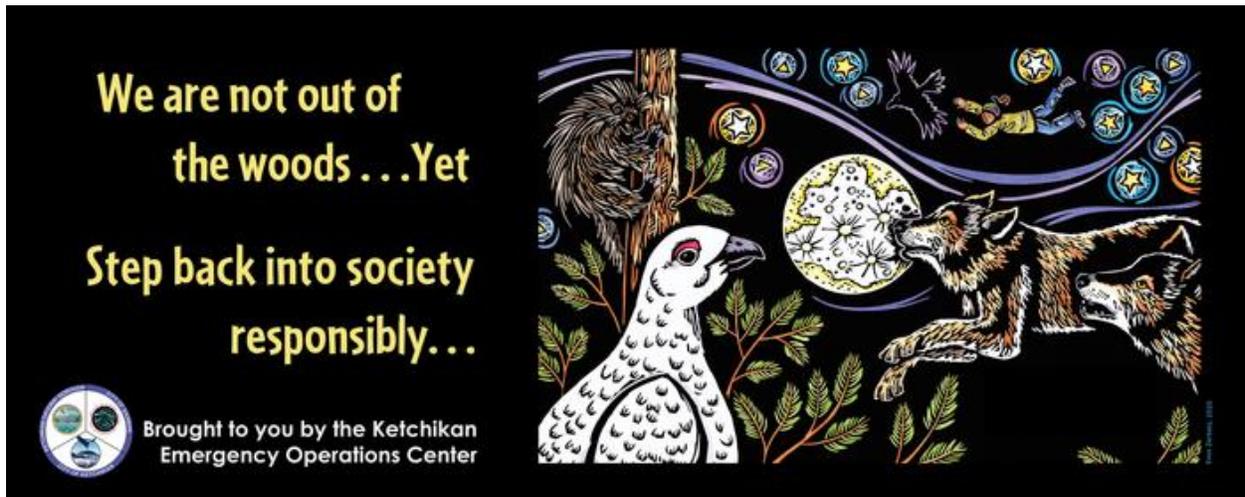
<p><b>If you experience <u>any</u> symptoms of COVID-19, contact your regular provider or our testing hotline at 247-TEST (8378)</b></p>	<b>Testing capacity:</b>	
	Current Test kits:	1,766
	Test kits on order:	10,000

### 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)	6309
Surgical Masks (ea)	52015
Masks with Face Shields	2202
Goggles (ea)	103
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	978
Gowns (ea)	1743
Gowns heavy duty (ea)	3
Gowns Kit, full isolation	4
Hoods	16
PAPR (ea)	33
PAPR Hoods (ea)	115
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1763
Hand Sanitizer (8oz bottle)	80
Hand Sanitizer (16oz pump)	0
Hand Sanitizer pump bottle	28
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	27815
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	407
Cloth face masks	20

## Step Back Into Society Responsibly...



As so artfully expressed by artist Evon Zerbetz, we encourage our citizens to be mindful of others when stepping back into society. Please closely follow the Governor's guidance for personal responsibility. Governor Dunleavy's Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan Phase 3/4 Guidance provides strategies and resources for Alaskans to keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe. The guidance document includes:

- Individual Actions (personal hygiene, social interactions, cleaning protocol)
- Business Responsibilities, including Restaurants and Bars, Childcare, Day Camps, Mass Transit - Except as listed in "Special Populations" all mandates have been changed to advisories.
- Community Mitigation Measures
- Special Populations, including Fishing and Seafood Processing, Health Care, Travel, - Mandates 10, 15, 17, and 18 remain in effect.

The Phase 3/4 detailed guidance is available at: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/reopen/>

We expect an announcement on an update to Alaska Health Mandate 10 (Interstate Travel) by the Governor this evening. The Alaska Health Mandates are available at <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>

### **Weekly Free Drive-Up Clinic Scheduled for Each Wednesday and Thursday**

We had another good turnout for this week's drive-up testing clinic, with 63 individuals participating on May 27 and 28. Each person tested will receive notification from a health care provider with the test results—either positive or negative—as soon as the results are received.

With the ongoing demand for COVID-19 testing, the EOC will continue to provide a free drive-up clinic each Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Berth 3.

The EOC would like to extend thank you to Creekside Family Clinic, Ketchikan Public Health, and PeaceHealth Medical Center for providing the health care providers to conduct the testing.

The weekly free testing clinic is offered to symptomatic individuals as well as certain asymptomatic individuals. We encourage anyone with any of these symptoms to seek testing:

- Cough, chills, difficulty breathing, diminished sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, headache, muscle/joint aches, nausea/vomiting, rash, runny nose, or sore throat.

In addition to individuals with any symptom consistent with COVID-19 we encourage the following self-identified asymptomatic individuals to seek testing:

- Anyone 65 years and older
- Anyone who lives in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well-controlled, including:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised
  - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
  - People with diabetes
  - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
  - People with liver disease
- Anyone working with or caring for a member of a vulnerable population, such as listed above
- Any healthcare worker or first responder, regardless of field (EMS, Dental, clinic, hospital, etc)
- Anyone who has recently traveled outside of Ketchikan (in or out of state)

Pre-test screening will occur on site, or people can be screened in advance by calling 247-TEST.

To participate in the testing:

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Adults will need to have a current photo i.d.
- One household per vehicle
- Screening and testing is performed in the safety of your own vehicle

Cars will turn onto the Berth at the traffic signal at the Dock and Front Street intersection, then proceed north toward the Berth 3 pavilion. Signs will mark the location. Follow the orange cones provided that will direct traffic flow to the test table. You will not have to get out of your car. The test will be conducted by local health providers who are following health and safety protocol.

### **First Batch of Wastewater Testing Results Received**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, the first set of wastewater testing results was received. The data was compiled from a May 7<sup>th</sup> sample and showed that there was no detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the wastewater as of that date. The wastewater testing has been done through the City of Ketchikan Wastewater Treatment Facility Covid-19 to detect whether there is a presence of COVID-19 in Ketchikan. The testing is conducted each week by collecting a 24-hour composite sample. COVID-19 can be detected in wastewater before someone becomes symptomatic, if they become symptomatic at all. The test results can help the EOC's policy group make more informed decisions relative to when or when not to lift restrictions. The data will also be shared with the State Department of Conservation (DEC) for statewide consideration. We are hopeful that we also will receive data from other Alaska communities.

### **Hand Sanitizer Refill Stations are Ongoing**

Many citizens are taking advantage of the hand sanitizer refill stations that have been placed throughout the community by the EOC. With assistance from the City of Ketchikan Public Works Department, the EOC has procured and developed a quantity of hand sanitizer that is available for the public. The hand sanitizer solution is a “no-frills” formula. It is not a thick gel, and it is not fragranced, but it is highly effective for killing germs. Gallon-sized refill containers have been set up at the following locations:

- Ketchikan City Hall
- Ketchikan Ports and Harbors building
- Ketchikan Police Department
- KPU Customer Service in the Plaza
- KGB White Cliff Building
- Gateway Recreation Center
- Saxman IRA Building; 2706 South Tongass Hwy
- North Tongass Fire Department Station 8 (Mile 13 North Tongass Hwy)

### **EOC Information**

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>.

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

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity  
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