



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 TRAVELER TESTING UPDATE

Date: June 11, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

This release provides a response to recent inquiries received about the traveler testing at the Ketchikan airport.

When is the traveler testing site available?

The traveler testing at the Ketchikan side of the airport ferry parking lot is scheduled to be available to receive the travelers arriving from the northbound flights from Seattle. The testing site is open at the following times:

- 7:00 to 9:30 a.m.
- 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
- 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Why is the traveler testing site not open to meet the southbound flights from Anchorage and Juneau?

Alaska Health Mandate 10.1 requires all travelers arriving from out of state to either self-quarantine for 14 days, or obtain a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of departure to Alaska, or to obtain a test upon arrival. At this time there is not a requirement for COVID-19 testing or quarantine for intrastate travelers, or those who are traveling between one community in Alaska or another. Travelers arriving into Ketchikan from another Alaska community may seek testing at our Free Drive-Up Testing Clinic each Wednesday and Thursday on Berth 3 from 11 am to 1 pm.

Out of state travelers are issued a voucher for a follow-up test 7-14 days after arrival.

Where can they take the voucher for the follow-up test?

The State of Alaska is paying for the initial traveler test and the 7-14 day follow-up test. The vouchers will be accepted at the airport traveler testing site at the times listed above, or at the Drive-Up Testing Clinic held each Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm on Berth 3. If a traveler prefers to go to their health provider for a follow-up test, they should contact their provider to see if the voucher will be accepted.

Travelers, or anyone experiencing symptoms, prior to the 7 day timeline, can call the Testing Hotline at 247-TEST (8378) with questions about a follow-up test.

Some people have not received their test results as early as they expected. What is the expected time for results to be received?

Our goal is to provide travelers results within 24 to 36 hours, but in some cases results may take longer especially as we implement this new program. Currently, most results have been received within a 48-hour timeframe, but some results have taken longer for a couple of reasons. In the first days of the traveler testing clinic, there were a couple of factors in the internal process of one of the labs that led to longer turnaround time for the results. Those issues have been addressed. There have also been improvements made to streamline the data collection and health provider notification process.

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