



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

### \*\* IMPORTANT COMMUNITY HEALTH UPDATE \*\*

#### **MEDIA RELEASE: UPDATE ON JUNE 16 TRAVELER POSITIVE CASE**

Date: June 17, 2020  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-6605

#### **For Immediate Release**

This release provides follow-up information to the media release issued around 11:00 a.m. on June 16, 2020.

The EOC has received additional information about this positive COVID-19 case that is important for Ketchikan residents to know. This individual arrived in Ketchikan on June 13<sup>th</sup>, was administered a COVID-19 test at the traveler testing site, and was instructed by the test collector to quarantine until receiving test results.

From information received by the EOC, this individual did not quarantine, but instead attended several social gatherings and public places on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday before being notified of the positive result on Tuesday. The social gatherings and public places that this individual attended were also attended by many of Ketchikan's youth, families, and citizens.

As soon as the positive test result was received by the health care provider, the individual was notified of the positive result and was directed to isolate. A Public Health nurse contacted the individual and began the contact investigation. The individual will be monitored daily by Public Health until released from isolation.

The Public Health contact investigation is ongoing, and at this time has identified many close contacts of this positive case. Because this individual did not quarantine after arrival to Ketchikan as directed, there is potential of a wide community spread of COVID-19. **The effects of the social gatherings are far-reaching and there has been a broad ripple effect to many citizens and organizations.**

The EOC urges citizens to consider the social gatherings that you've participated in since Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>. If you think you may have attended an event or gathering where social distancing was not being followed or where individuals who recently traveled were in attendance, please consider self-quarantining for a period of 14 days. We urge parents to question your teenagers about their social interactions and consider imposing a quarantine if you have reason to be concerned about a potential close or secondary contact to the positive case.

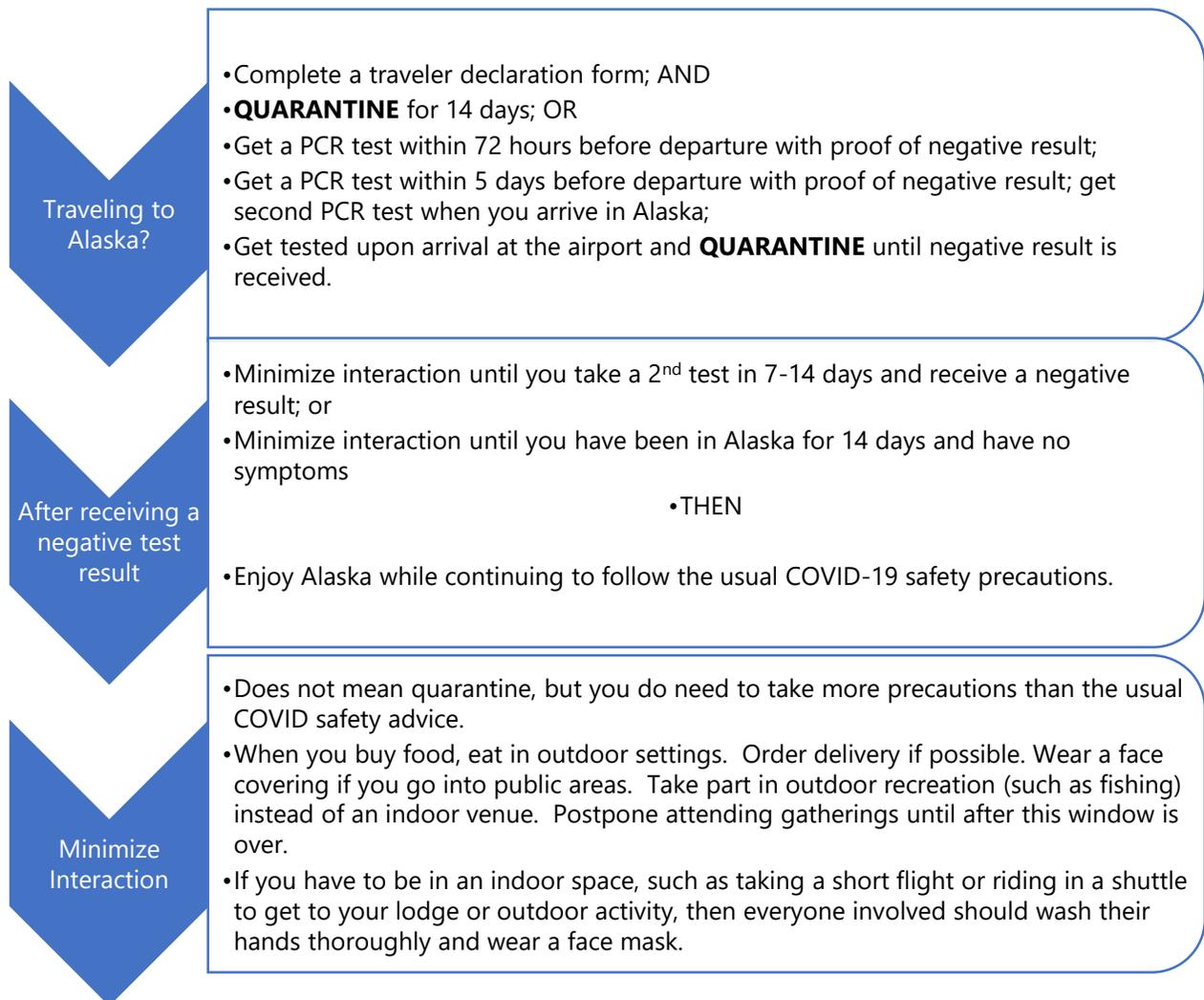
The City of Ketchikan has announced that out of an abundance of caution due to close and secondary contacts to the positive case, many departments have been affected. The following actions are being taken in order to break the chain of potential spread of COVID-19 in the community:

- KPU Customer Service in the Plaza will be closed for a minimum of two weeks.
- Multiple City department heads and employees are self-quarantining and working from home.

**The EOC wants to remind our citizens that personal responsibility is paramount during this pandemic.** One person's actions have an impact on the entire community. The Alaska health mandates are put in place to help everyone stay healthy and if they are not followed, our community cannot stay healthy.

There can be legal consequences for the individual who does not comply with a mandate. The Ketchikan Police Department is aware of the situation and is conducting an investigation of the matter. But the biggest consequence for non-compliance is a widespread outbreak of this virus.

**It is absolutely imperative for our citizens to follow the directives of Alaska Health Mandate 10.1 (Interstate and International Travel), which requires that all persons entering Alaska from another state or country must:**



If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms, such as a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice or use the Testing Hotline and call 247-TEST (8378). The EOC Drive-Up COVID-19 Testing Clinic will be open each Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm at Berth 3.

Information regarding the Alaska Health Mandate 10.1 (International and Interstate Travel) is available at <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/> Information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at [www.covid19.alaska.gov](http://www.covid19.alaska.gov).

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity  
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