



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

Date: June 19, 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 new positive COVID-19 cases for Ketchikan today. The total number of cumulative cases identified in Ketchikan, including travelers, is 25. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 21. Of the 21 cases, 17 have recovered.

Cumulative Tests Administered	Tests Pending Results	Cumulative Positive Cases	Resident / Traveler Staying Local	Resident / Traveler Not Staying Local
3012	291	25	21	4
Close Contact	Travel Related	Non-Travel Related	Recovered	Hospitalizations
14	10	1	17	2

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:	3,377
	Test kits on order:	10,000

Traveler Testing Site Updates

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, and self-quarantine until a negative test result is received. The EOC has set up a COVID-19 testing site at the airport parking lot on the Ketchikan side to be able to test passengers arriving from out of state.

This week the traveler testing operation processed **274** COVID-19 tests for incoming out-of-state travelers.

The site is scheduled for when the northbound commercial flights arrive, but is open for any out-of-state traveler. The traveler 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.

Travelers arriving on other commercial or private aircraft or vessels who already have negative test results or choosing to self-quarantine for 14-days should submit required documentation electronically to traveler@alaska.gov or fax them to 907-269-7952. Those in need of testing should go to the airport testing site with required paperwork during operating hours.

All arriving passengers must complete the travel declaration form. The declaration form, Health Mandate 10.1, and additional information for travelers is available at: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>

Follow-up test vouchers: The State of Alaska is paying for initial traveler testing and the 7-14 day follow-up test at the airport testing site at the times listed above. If a traveler prefers to go to their health provider for an initial or follow-up test, they should contact their provider to see if the voucher will be accepted and if there will be a charge.

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.

Reporting Violations of Health Mandates

We have received questions regarding how citizens can report violations of State of Alaska health mandates.

Failure to follow all health mandates may lead to a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 to an extent that our local healthcare providers could not accommodate. While the primary focus is on education and voluntary compliance with the mandates, State and local law enforcement are authorized to enforce individual compliance. Law enforcement will respond to complaints and educate the public when they see violations that jeopardize the safety of individuals or the community.

Individuals who recklessly violate the mandates do risk both civil fines and criminal prosecution. See <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/> for more details on these penalties.

If citizens become aware of an individual who is not complying with the Governor's Mandates, we recommend that it be reported by phone to a local law enforcement dispatch:

- Inside City of Ketchikan, call Ketchikan Police Dispatch at 225-6631.
- Inside City of Saxman, call the VPSO/State Trooper Dispatch at 225-5118.
- In the Borough outside the cities, call State Trooper Dispatch at 225-5118.

Citizens can also report violations of health mandates by sending an email to investigations@alaska.gov.

It is our hope that citizens will respect the directives for social distancing for the health and well-being of all and to #flattenthecurve and #stopthespread.

Weekly Free Drive-Up Clinic Update

In addition to the daily testing site at the airport for arriving passengers, the EOC will continue to provide a weekly drive-up testing clinic.

This week, on June 17 and 18, there were **252** people tested at the Drive-Up Clinic.

The free drive-up clinic will be provided each Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Berth 3. The weekly drive-up testing clinic will be offered to anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, and is also open to certain asymptomatic individuals, including: those who have health conditions; are age 65 or older; health care workers or care providers; first responders; or those who have recently traveled. Pre-test screening will occur on site, or people can be screened in advance by calling **247-TEST**.

Wastewater Testing Update

This week we received the fourth week of results from the wastewater testing operation. The latest data was compiled from a sample collected the week of May 28th 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 data has been shared with the State Department of Conservation (DEC) for statewide consideration.

CARES Act Funding Programs Available

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough and City of Ketchikan have developed programs to assist local citizens and businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The following programs are now available:

Business Relief Program: Businesses with more than \$25,000 revenue per quarter and suffering a revenue decline of 40% or more during Second Quarter CY 2020 compared

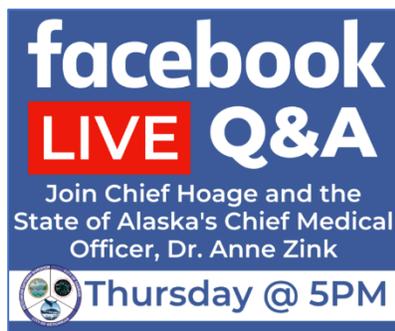
to Second Quarter CY 2019 due to the Copvid-19 pandemic are eligible to apply for a grant. Grant awards will be based on a percentage of lost revenue. The maximum grant award is \$25,000.

Nonprofit Relief Program: Qualifying Ketchikan Gateway Borough non-profit organizations may apply for grants up to \$20,000. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough will distribute \$200,000 worth of grants through the CARES Act program. If need exceeds the total amount available, individual grants may be reduced and/or rejected. The grant application deadline is July 15, 2020. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Grant Committee will meet the final two weeks of July to consider grant proposals. Grant awards will be considered based on the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on an organization, services provided as a result of the pandemic, and the proposed use of funds. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly is tentatively scheduled to consider grant awards on August 3, 2020.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Reimbursement Program: This program is for one-time assistance to reimburse small businesses and non-profit organizations in the Borough up to \$1000 for eligible expenses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hygiene, and social distancing supplies such as face masks, gloves, face shields, eye protection, sneeze guards, hand sanitizer and other approved disinfecting products.

Additional details about these CARES Act funding programs, including application forms, are available at: www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms

Facebook Live QnA with Dr. Anne Zink and Incident Commander Hoage



Ketchikan has experienced a recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases. As such, many citizens have questions about the virus and its effects on our community. To help address those questions, we have scheduled a question and answer session with Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anne Zink and Ketchikan's EOC Incident Commander Abner Hoage. The session will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. and will be broadcast on Facebook Live, as well as

the local KPU cable channel.

Citizens are encouraged to submit questions for Dr. Zink and Chief Hoage ahead of time to: covidquestions@kgbak.us. Questions received by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 23rd, will be included into the QnA session.

Hand Sanitizer Refill Stations are Ongoing

Our hand sanitizer refill stations continue to be available to the public 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)

Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Kind

Thanks to the efforts of everyone in our community, we previously flattened the curve of COVID-19 in Ketchikan, and we can do it again if we each do our part. We have seen an increase in our COVID-19 cases lately, and we each need to work to keep each other safe and healthy. We want to protect our elders, family members and friends by practicing personal hygiene and social distancing. Here are a few things we all can do to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19:

- Wash your hands
- Wear a mask when around others
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when possible
- Keep your interactions and circles small when possible.
- Even for mild symptoms get tested.

We are all in this together. If we each do these things and encourage each other to do them, we will make a difference. Let's continue to work together to keep our community safe.

Information on the EOC's response to COVID-19 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.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity
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