



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

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

Date: June 26, 2020  
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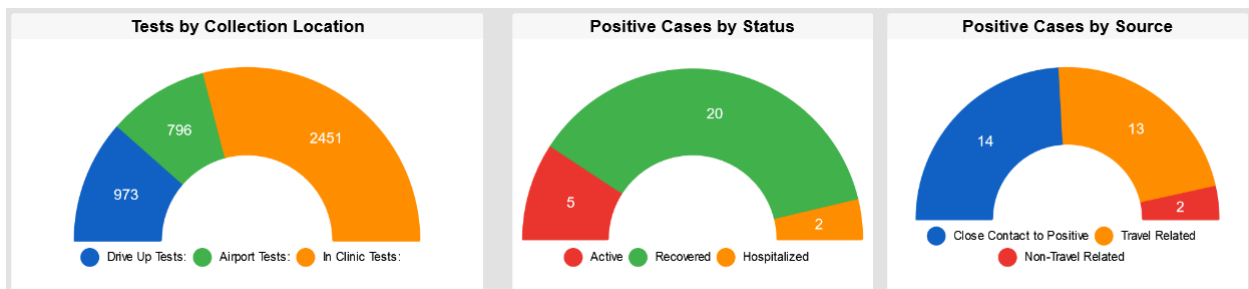
**For Immediate Release**

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 29. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 25. Of the 25 cases, 5 are still active, and 20 have recovered.

Cumulative Tests Administered <b>4220</b>	Tests Pending Results <b>264</b>	Cumulative Positive Cases <b>29</b>	Resident / Traveler Staying Local <b>25</b>	Resident / Traveler Not Staying Local <b>4</b>
Close Contact <b>14</b>	Travel Related <b>13</b>	Non-Travel Related <b>2</b>	Recovered <b>20</b>	Hospitalizations <b>2</b>



<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:	2,640
	Test kits on order:	10,000

### **New AMHS Traveler Testing Protocol**

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) announced new travel protocols which require COVID-19 testing prior to certain AMHS ferry trips. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, DOTPF clarified that testing is not required for shorter-duration intrastate voyages.

- Shorter-duration and day-boat passenger travel within Alaska DO NOT require COVID-19 testing or a sworn statement of quarantine.
- All passengers (over the age of 2) boarding in Bellingham, Washington are required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours before boarding and must complete the mandatory State of Alaska Travel Declaration Form.
- Longer-duration routes originating in Alaska and going to Bellingham, across the Gulf of Alaska, or to or from the Aleutian Chain including Kodiak, must either:
  1. Take a COVID-19 test within five days of the departure date and present proof of negative result; OR
  2. Present a sworn statement affirming the traveler has followed quarantine standards for at least 14 days preceding the date of travel.

To find available testing sites, view the Testing Sites Locator at: <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/app/2d92b77bc8044329a1ee3954b063bd8c>

There are FDA-authorized at-home test kits that may soon be available to travelers:

- Pixel system from LabCorp <https://www.pixel.labcorp.com/at-home-test-kits/covid-19-test>
- Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit <https://www.everlywell.com/products/covid-19-test/>

AMHS COVID-19 protocols for passengers are available at <http://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/covid19.shtml>

### **Out of State 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 **222** initial 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](mailto: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.

### **Weekly Free Drive-Up Clinic Update**

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

This week, on June 24 and 25, there were **216** 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**.

### **Updates to Essential Workers Traveling into or Within Alaska**

A new webpage is now available to help explain what is expected of workers who are traveling into Alaska or to a smaller community within Alaska off the highway or Alaska Marine Highway systems. The webpage explains who needs to submit a Community/Workplace Protective Plan (CWPP) to the State of Alaska for review. It also explains quarantine and/or testing requirements for the following groups: seafood processing workers, commercial fishing vessel crew members, independent commercial fishing harvesters, fishing charter operations and lodges, all other critical infrastructure businesses and government employees. Finally, the webpage covers important testing information for workers arriving into Anchorage. Employers are strongly encouraged to provide a letter to their employees in their native language indicating their status as a critical infrastructure worker along with instructions detailing protective measures they must take in transit, including whether they are to be tested at the airport and where they should report after clearing the screening station. Please read the webpage for these instructions and details: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command/critical-infrastructure/>

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

A question and answer session was held on June 25<sup>th</sup> with the following State and local officials:

- Dr. Anne Zink, DHSS Chief Medical Officer
- Abner Hoage, Ketchikan EOC Incident Commander
- Heidi Hedberg, DHSS Director of Public Health
- Tessa Walker Linderman, DNP, RN, State COVID Response Port of Entry Coordinator
- Rob Carpenter, DOTPF Deputy Commissioner
- Bryan Fisher, SEOC Incident Commander

The session covered a variety of issues concerning COVID-19, including virus transmission, testing data and testing result information, current mandates, traveler testing protocols, airport travel testing, AMHS travel protocol and testing, among other topics. The session was well-attended and many questions were submitted. A summary of the questions and answers will be provided next week by the EOC. The session video is available for viewing on the City of Ketchikan Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofketchikanalaska>

### **CARES Act Funding Programs Available**

The following programs have been established to assist local citizens and businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **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 non-profit organizations may apply for grants up to \$20,000. The grant application deadline is July 15, 2020. 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.
- **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](http://www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms)

### **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)

### **COVID-Conscious Business Toolkit**

While Alaskans' efforts to keep the spread low have made a difference, COVID-19 is still a serious health concern in Alaska. There's a lot business owners can do to help keep their workforce and clients safe. Alaska DHSS has put together a toolkit for businesses with Covid-Conscious graphics, signage, and templates. The toolkit is available at:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/business.aspx>

### **Open Never Meant Over**

With the opening of our economy and travel, we have seen an increase in our COVID-19 cases. But we prepared for it and we have testing and social distancing protocols in place. We can all do our part 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. Be kind, be safe, and be healthy.

### **COVID-19 Questions**

Citizens are encouraged to submit questions related to COVID-19 in Ketchikan and local resources to: [covidquestions@kgbak.us](mailto:covidquestions@kgbak.us).

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](http://www.covid19.alaska.gov).

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity  
# # #