



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

Date: July 2, 2020
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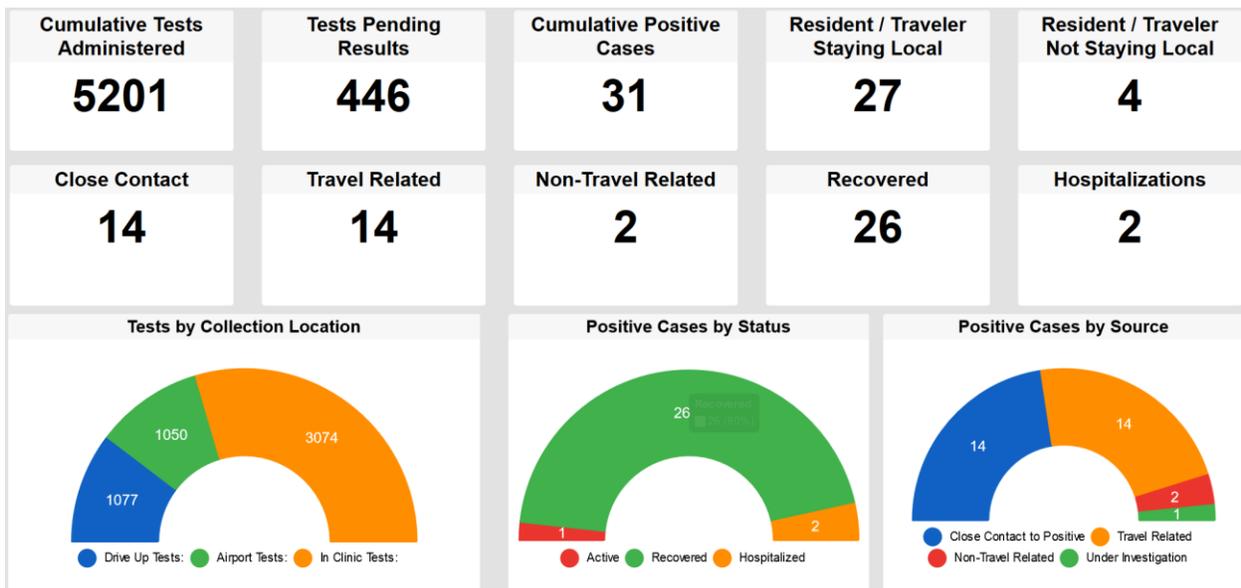
For Immediate Release

This brief serves as the weekly media update on information from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and its partner agencies.

**With the Fourth of July holiday, there will not be a Case Count Update or Situation Report provided on Friday July 3 or Monday July 6. In the event of a positive case for Ketchikan or other emergent news, a media release will be provided as appropriate.*

COVID-19 Case Count Update

There were no new positive COVID-19 cases for Ketchikan today. The total number of cumulative COVID-19 cases identified in Ketchikan, including travelers, is 31. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 27. Of the 27 cases, 1 is still active and 26 have recovered.



<p>If you experience <u>any</u> symptoms of COVID-19, contact your regular provider or our testing hotline at 247-TEST (8378)</p>	Testing capacity:	
	Current Test kits:	2,485
	Test kits on order:	10,000

Test Result Delays Expected

With the high volume of tests being conducted in the Pacific Northwest, the turnaround time for COVID-19 test results is expected to be longer than originally anticipated. We had initially planned for a 24 to 72 hour timeframe. However, it is now expected that the results can take anywhere from 5-14 days. The EOC continues to look for options for a quicker timeframe for results. We thank our travelers and our residents for their patience during this time.

Out of State Traveler Testing Site Updates

The traveler testing site continues to operate in accordance with Alaska Health Mandate 10.1. All travelers arriving from out of state are required 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.

The site is scheduled for when the northbound commercial flights arrive, but is open for any out-of-state traveler. The traveler testing site times have been adjusted as follows:

- 7:30 to 9 a.m.
- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The total of tests processed this week at the traveler testing site will be updated on the dashboard of the COVID-19 Response website at www.kgbak.us/COVID-19-Response.

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/>

AMHS COVID-19 protocols for passengers are available at:

<http://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/covid19.shtml>

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 July 1 and 2, there were **186** 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**.

Alternative Testing Options

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 available:

- 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/>
- Vault Health COVID-19 Testing <https://www.vaulthealth.com/covid>
- Picture Genetics COVID-19 Testing <https://www.picturegenetics.com/covid19>

Summary of September 25 Facebook Live QnA Session

A question and answer session was held on June 25th with Incident Commander Hoage, Dr. Anne Zink, and several State officials. 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. A summary of the session's questions and answers is provided on the Ketchikan's COVID-19 response page at: www.kgbak.us/COVID-19-Response.

The session video is available for viewing on the City of Ketchikan Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofketchikanalaska>

Face Masks to be Available at Hand Sanitizer Refill Stations

Starting next week, our hand sanitizer refill stations will also be supplied with face coverings for members of the public. We encourage our citizens to wear a face covering when around people who are not household members. Our face covering and hand sanitizer refill stations are available 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)

Celebrate Safely for the Fourth of July

The 4th of July is a great time to celebrate. Whether you choose to go camping, travel to your cabin, go fishing, hiking or biking, watch the fireworks, or just get outside and BBQ in your own backyard, please stay safe this weekend. Alaskans know the best way to stay safe while having fun is to be prepared. This year that means in addition to the normal safety measures – such as planning ahead, carrying extra supplies, being fire-wise and not driving distracted – follow these COVID-19 precautions to keep yourself and family safe:

- **WASH YOUR HANDS:** If you don't have access to soap and water, make sure you bring and use hand sanitizer
- **MAINTAIN YOUR DISTANCE:** Stay at least 6' feet away from others not in your household
- **WEAR A FACE COVERING:** Carry one with you and use it when you're around others and can't maintain 6' of distance
- **STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK:** It may alter your plans, but please don't go out if you feel sick, even with mild symptoms. Call your health care provider to talk about testing options.

If you're traveling to or through another community, check to see if they have stricter travel restrictions in their area. Be respectful of others who may be more at risk from the virus. When we all take responsibility for our actions, we're all safer and healthier and can enjoy this great state we live in.

COVID-19 Questions

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

Information on the EOC's response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan is updated daily on the COVID-19 Response page at www.kgbak.us/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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