



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

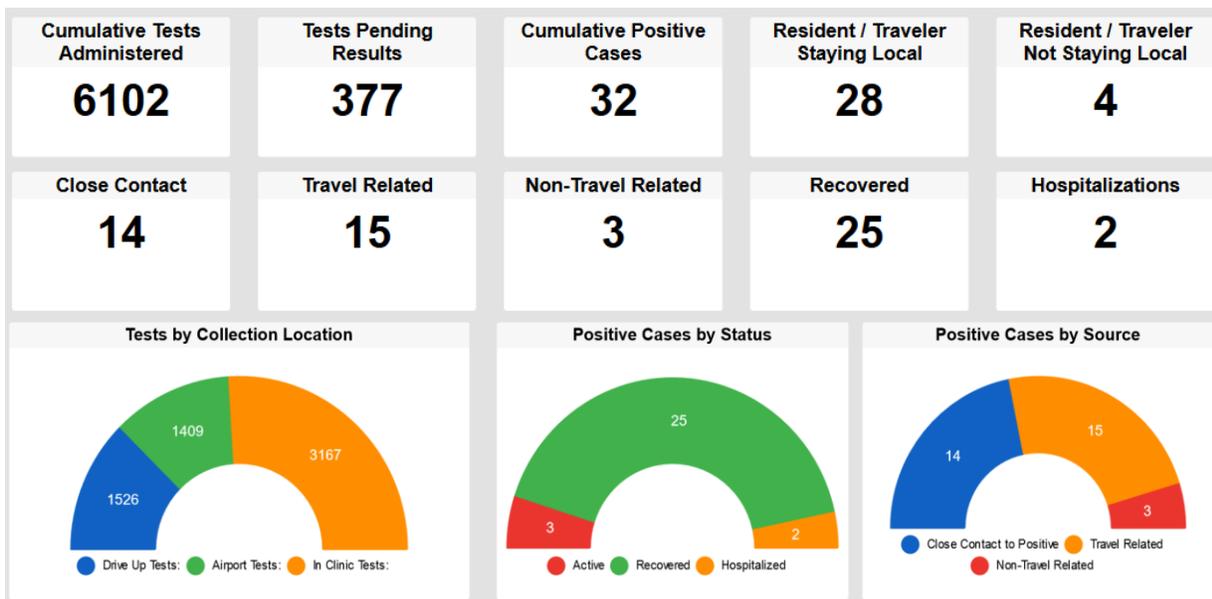
Date: July 10, 2020
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

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

COVID-19 Case Count Update

There were no new positive cases in Ketchikan today. The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, is 32. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 28. Of the 28 cases, 3 are still active, and 25 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:	3,444
	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.

EOC Requests Borough to Purchase BioFire COVID-19 Testing Machine

As noted above, there has been a significant delay in the turnaround time for COVID-19 test results. That, coupled with the increased need for tests, has led to the EOC to pursue options for testing to be processed locally. The EOC procurement officer has researched various testing machines and has recommended the BioFire FilmArray Torch machine. The EOC is looking to procure the Torch system to significantly expand and enhance our local, on-island testing capacity which will greatly improve overall testing availability and turn-around-time for results.

The BioFire FilmArray Torch is a module-based laboratory testing system that conducts molecular infectious disease diagnostic panels. In the 12-module configuration, the system can conduct and accommodate high-throughput testing operations. One of the test panels that can be run on the Torch is the BioFire Respiratory 2.1 (RP2.1) Panel, which can detect 22 different viral and bacterial respiratory pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2. The RP2.1 panel is only one of two comprehensive respiratory pathogen panels that has been approved by the FDA with an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to include the detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

On Monday July 13 at noon in Assembly Chambers, the Borough Assembly will consider the EOC's request for the Borough to purchase the BioFire testing machine. The technical specifications, costs and details of the machine are available at the following link:

http://206.223.197.179/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL&get_month=7&get_year=2020&dsp=ag&seq=1088

Free Face Masks Available

The EOC has received a substantial supply of face coverings that we would like to make available to the public. We invite anyone in need of masks for themselves, family members, or their business, to reach with a request for the masks. Businesses or other organizations that would like to obtain masks for distribution to the public at their location can email their request to covidquestions@kgbak.us with subject line "Mask Distribution Request" and the following information:

1. Organization Name and Address where masks will be distributed.
2. Organization Point of Contact including name, email, and phone number.
3. Number of masks requested, operating hours, and estimated count of daily public visitors.

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)

CARES Act Programs Available Through the Borough and City of Ketchikan

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

- **Micro Business Grant Program:** Businesses with revenue of at least \$10,000 but less than \$100,000 during CY 2019, and suffering a revenue decline of 40% or more during Second Quarter CY 2020, compared to Second Quarter CY 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are eligible to apply for a grant. Grant awards will be based on a percentage of lost revenue. The minimum grant award is \$500. The application period opens July 20, 2020 and grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.
- **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 the Borough's CARES Act funding programs, including application forms, are available at: www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms

The City of Ketchikan is currently offering five subsidy programs for those specifically impacted by COVID-19:

- **Mortgage and Rent Assistance** for City Residents who qualify under the income guidelines
- **Utility Electric Subsidy** for City and Borough Residents and Businesses
- **Moorage Subsidy** for City and Borough Residents and Businesses
- **Non-Profit Relief** for City and Borough organizations who provide for the vulnerable populations
- **Child Care Subsidy** for state-approved daycare providers in the City and Borough

City of Ketchikan CARES Act program information is available at: <https://www.ktn-ak.us/Community-COVID-19-Response>

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.

This week, there were **257** initial arriving passenger tests processed at the traveler testing site.

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 8 and 9, there were **101** 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>

Travel Industry COVID-19 Testing Forum Held on July 10th

This afternoon the EOC hosted a forum with travel industry professionals to answer questions regarding Traveler COVID-19 Testing. This session was specifically tailored for members of the community who work with out-of-state visitors and had questions about Ketchikan's traveler testing operation and how it applies to their businesses. The session was well attended by 15 community members and 6 panelists from the Alaska State EOC and the Ketchikan EOC.

EOC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) Updated

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. The FAQ page has been updated with the questions and answers from this session. To view the FAQ's, please visit: <https://www.kgbak.us/928/COVID-19-FAQs>

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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