



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

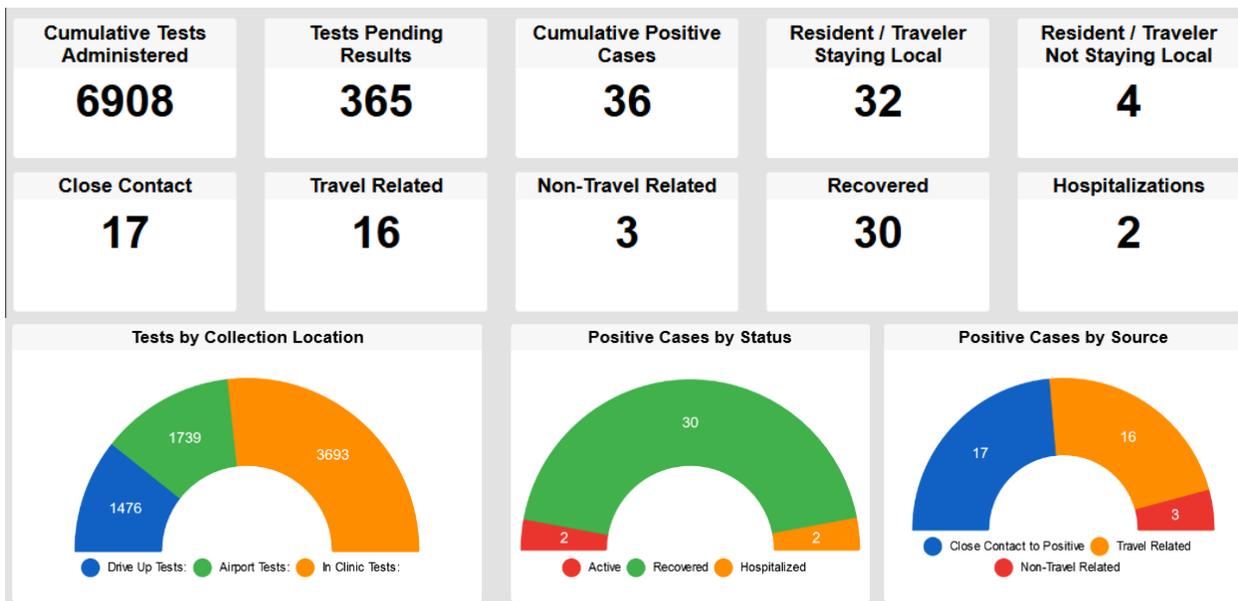
Date: July 17, 2020
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-6605

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 2 new positive cases in Ketchikan today. The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, is 36. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 32. Of the 32 cases, 2 are still active, and 30 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:	3,440
	Test kits on order:	10,000

Testing Capacity and PPE Inventory Increased

Together with the local healthcare providers, the EOC has worked to increase the inventory of COVID-19 test supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). The goal has been for a one-month supply of PPE to be available in Ketchikan, which we now have on hand. This week, one local clinic obtained an additional testing machine, and another clinic reported that it would be

purchasing a Biofire testing machine. The EOC continues to pursue procurement of testing kits and supplies.

Drive Up Testing Event in Saxman Scheduled July 22

The EOC will be hosting a free drive up clinic in Saxman next week. The site will be open on Wednesday, July 22nd from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM behind the Saxman Community Center, 2841 South Tongass Highway. This is in addition to our drive-up testing at Berth 3, and will be available 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**.

Weekly Free Drive-Up Clinic Update

This week, on July 15 and 16, there were **81** people tested at the Berth 3 Drive-Up Clinic. The free drive-up clinic is 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.

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 are: 7:30 to 9 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

This week, there were **330** 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.

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>

Free Face Masks and Hand Sanitizer

The EOC has set up eight (8) hand sanitizer refill and face mask stations in the community. We encourage citizens to use hand sanitizer when hand washing is unavailable, and 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)

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

CARES Act Programs Available Through the Borough and City of Ketchikan

The following Borough programs have been established to assist local citizens and businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are available at www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms:

- **Micro Business Grant Program** for businesses within the City and Borough.
- **Business Relief Program** for businesses within the City and Borough.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Reimbursement Program** for businesses within the City and Borough
- Additional programs will be posted as approved by the Borough Assembly.

The following City of Ketchikan programs have been established to assist local citizens and businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are available at <https://www.ktn-ak.us/Community-COVID-19-Response>

- **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

COVID-19 Questions

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

EOC Updates and Information Posted on Social Media

The EOC is using three different social media platforms for providing updated information to Ketchikan residents. EOC information is posted through the City and Borough Facebook pages, and on the Borough's Twitter, and Instagram sites.

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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