



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

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 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 Contact: Kim Simpson, Deputy Public Information Officer, 228-6605

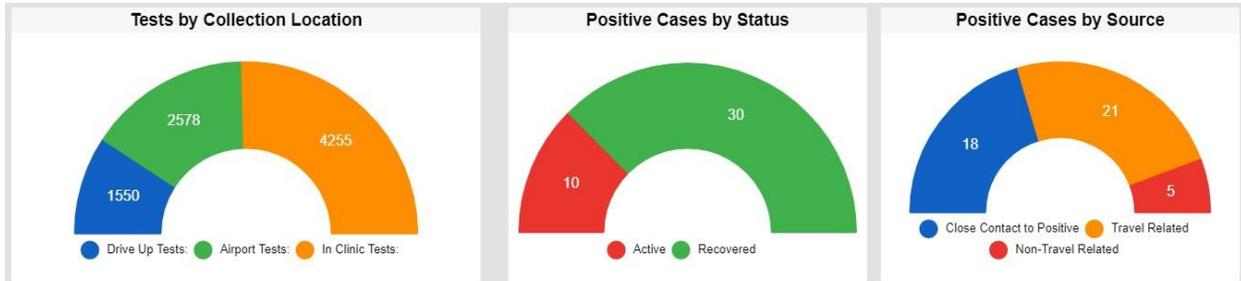
For Immediate Release

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 was **1 (one)** new positive case in Ketchikan today. This person is a Ketchikan resident who returned to Ketchikan on July 22nd after traveling out of state, obtained testing at the airport testing site, where they were directed to quarantine until receiving results. This individual is currently asymptomatic, has been notified of the positive test result, has been directed to isolate, and is being monitored by healthcare providers. The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, is 44. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 40. Of the 40 cases, 10 are still active, and 30 have recovered.

Cumulative Tests Administered 8383	Tests Pending Results 234	Cumulative Positive Cases 44	Resident / Traveler Staying Local 40	Resident / Traveler Not Staying Local 4
Close Contact 18	Travel Related 21	Non-Travel Related 5	Recovered 30	Hospitalizations 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:	5,335
	Test kits on order:	10,000

Increased COVID-19 Case Count in Ketchikan Concerns EOC

Ketchikan has seen positive test results daily this week—a substantial increase from prior weeks. In the last seven days, Ketchikan has seen **4** travel-related cases, **2** under investigation, **1** seafood industry and **1** community transmission that have no known origin, which means they are classified as “community spread.” While the testing capacity, personal protective equipment (PPE), and health care capacity remain strong in Ketchikan, the increase in positive cases is of concern to the EOC. If the pattern of positive cases continues, we will likely see exponential growth of the spread of the virus in Ketchikan.

If we each do our part, together we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep Ketchikan safe. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Ketchikan, we strongly recommend that citizens remember to **Protect Yourself and Others by:**

- **Practice Good Hygiene**
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, practice good hygiene, and cover any cough or sneeze. Don't touch your face with unwashed hands.
- **Practice Social Distancing**
When you have to leave home, keep a minimum of six feet away from others at all times.
- **Wear a Mask**
There is no mandate or requirement for the use of masks by the public, however health and science experts recommended that you wear a mask in public wherever social distancing is challenging.
- **Get Tested If You Are Sick**
If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, isolate yourself from others and call a provider to get tested. If you require medical attention, call your doctor before going in.

EOC Develops Risk Analysis to Determine Community Risk Level

The EOC is working to develop a COVID-19 Community Risk Level and Mitigation Measures Analysis in order to provide a framework to support clear decision-making, improve accountability and communicate with the public to ensure necessary behavior change in response to COVID-19 in our community. Risk alert-level systems communicate visually the level of health risk and indicate what measures should be taken at each level to maximize safety. In the highest alert stage, there may be recommendation for lockdowns that require people to stay home and closures of schools, places of worship and nonessential businesses. As the level of alert is reduced, a stepwise lessening of these restrictions would be possible.

The draft document is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ktn-covid-risk>. The EOC is seeking comments, questions, and suggestions. These may be sent individually to covidquestions@kgbak.us and they will be answered and/or incorporated into the plan as appropriate.

Ongoing COVID-19 Testing Operations:

A one-time drive-up testing event was held in Saxman on July 22. The EOC hosted the free testing clinic in conjunction with a City of Saxman outreach event that also provided voter

registration and Census forms. The clinic was open from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and **14** tests were administered. The EOC would like to thank the City of Saxman and the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) Health Clinic for assistance in the event.

The weekly free drive-up clinic was held July 22 and 23 on Berth 3. This week, there were **29** people tested at the Berth 3 Drive-Up Clinic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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. The EOC would like to thank Creekside Clinic and its staff members for their work for the clinics.

The EOC has been providing testing for AMHS employees. In addition to the weekly drive-up testing for members of the public, the EOC has coordinated with the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) for weekly testing of ferry workers. This week, **22** AMHS employees were tested.

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 **315** initial arriving passenger tests processed at the traveler testing site. **1,166** travelers tested at their originating location prior to travel to Alaska. We are seeing an increase in the number of travelers who are prep-testing prior to departure for their trips. This is due to an expansion of testing services in clinics nationwide, as well as the availability of home test kits that can be ordered online.

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>

Wastewater Testing Operation Suspended

The purpose of the wastewater testing was to proactively detect the presence of the virus in the community. With the recent uptick in positive virus cases and the increased availability of the medical COVID-19 testing in the community, the need for the ongoing wastewater testing has diminished. The operation would likely resume at a point where Ketchikan sees a decrease in either medical test availability or an absence of positive cases.

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
- Ketchikan Public Library
- 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
- **Mortgage and Rent Assistance** for Borough Residents who qualify under the income guidelines
- 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 account @BoroughKTN, and Instagram account ketchikangatewayborough.

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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