



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

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

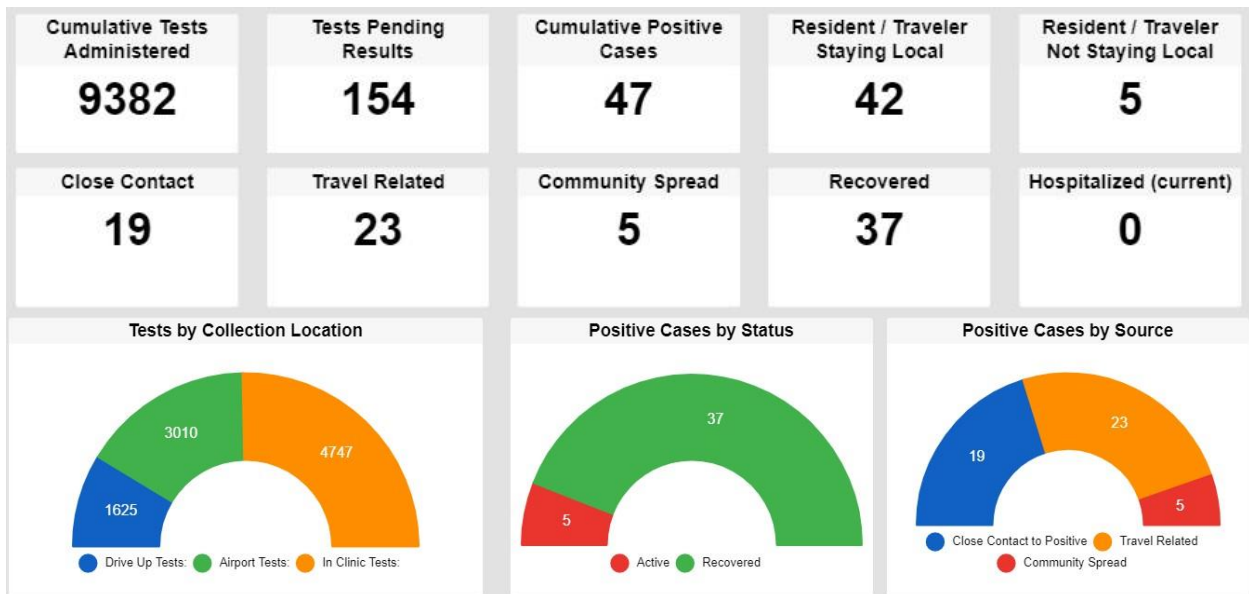
Date: July 31, 2020  
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
 Contact: Kim Simpson, Deputy Public Information Officer, 228-6605

**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 were no new positive cases in Ketchikan today. The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, is 47. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 42. Of the 42 cases, 5 are still active, and 37 have recovered. The one hospitalized individual has been discharged and is back at home.



<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:	3,485
	Test kits on order:	11,020

**Covid-19 Cases Decline from Prior week**

Ketchikan has seen fewer positive test results this week as compared to last week. In the last seven days, Ketchikan has seen **1** travel-related case, **1** close contact to a positive case, **0** seafood industry and **0** community transmission/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 has developed and seeking input on a COVID-19 Community Risk Level and Mitigation Measures Plan. 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](mailto:covidquestions@kgbak.us) and they will be answered and/or incorporated into the plan as appropriate.

### **Ongoing COVID-19 Testing Operations:**

**The weekly free drive-up clinic was held July 29 and 30 on Berth 3.** This week, there were **49** 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, **21** AMHS employees were tested.

### **Out of State Traveler Testing Site Updates**

On 7/28/2020 Governor Dunleavy announced that effective 8/11/2020, all out of state travelers to Alaska would be required to obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of travel to Alaska. The airport testing site will still be available to Alaska residents returning to Alaska

effective 8/11/2020. Additional information on this change is expected to be released next week, and the EOC will provide updates as additional details become available.

Through 8/10/2020 the traveler testing site will continue to operate in accordance with the current 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 **372** initial arriving passenger tests processed at the traveler testing site, **1,089** 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](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/>

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
- 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:covidquestions@kgbak.us).

### **Updated EOC PIO Phone number**

The EOC has established a dedicated number for COVID-19 questions. Individuals with questions regarding travel testing or other questions regarding COVID-19 in Ketchikan may be directed to the new local phone number: 228-2464. Long distance callers would dial 907-228-2464.

### **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](http://www.kgbak.us/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  
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