



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

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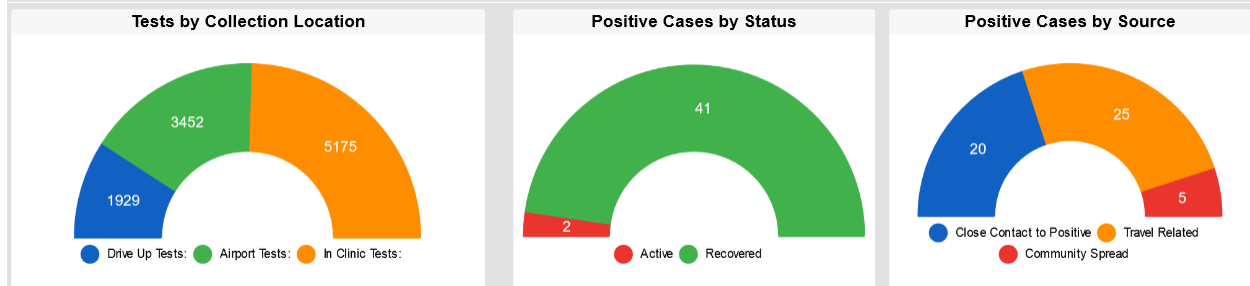
For Immediate Release

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, remains at 50. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 43. Of the 43 cases, 2 are still active, and 41 have recovered.

Cumulative Tests Administered 10556	Tests Pending Results 123	Cumulative Positive Cases 50	Resident / Traveler Staying Local 43	Resident / Traveler Not Staying Local 7
Close Contact 20	Travel Related 25	Community Spread 5	Recovered 41	Hospitalized (current) 0



<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:	3,287
	Test kits on order:	10,000

Upcoming Changes to Health Mandate 10 Effective August 11th

As announced by Governor Dunleavy, the new requirements under Health Mandate 10 go into effect on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The biggest changes are: 1. Traveler Declarations will need to be completed online at www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com; 2. Non-resident travelers will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours before departure to Alaska, and will need to upload the results, travel declaration form, and isolation plan into the Alaska Travel Portal. If a nonresident arrives without a pre-test, testing is available for \$250 per test. The traveler will be required to quarantine while waiting

results; 3. Intrastate testing (for travel between Alaskan communities) will become available. Alaska residents traveling within the state will now have the option of free testing at the airport sites, to prevent bringing the virus into our small communities. For more details on the changes visit: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers>.

Upcoming Changes to Ketchikan Airport Traveler Testing Site

In anticipation of construction occurring at the Revilla side of the airport ferry parking lot in upcoming weeks, the traveler testing site will be relocated to the Gravina side of the airport. We anticipate the change in airport traveler testing location to be effective on or around August 13, 2020. The new testing operation will be set up adjacent to the airport terminal building. After deplaning, travelers will go through the screening process near the baggage claim area, and if a COVID-19 test is needed, will proceed to the testing tent immediately to the left of the exit door by baggage claim. Signage is being developed to assist travelers with the new process. We will announce additional details next week.

An alternative traveler testing site on the Revilla side will also be established, in order to accommodate travelers on Revillagigedo Island. The additional site will be available for the testing of both interstate and intrastate travelers arriving through various means of transportation including private vessels and planes, and will accommodate vouchers for the 7-14 day follow-up travel tests. The alternate traveler testing site may be incorporated into the Berth 3 Drive-Up Testing operation, or it may be determined to be at a different location. Additional information will be provided next week.

Airport Traveler Testing Statistics and Information

The traveler testing site will continue to operate on the Revilla side of the airport ferry parking lot until further notice. We anticipate the move happening on or around August 13th, and will provide updated information next week. Under current Mandate 10 requirements, through August 10th, 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 site is currently 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 **1648** passengers screened with travel declaration forms completed through the traveler testing site. The breakdown of the screened passengers is as follows:

- 1039** - Tested prior to travel
- 386** - Tested at airport (initial arrival)
- 168** - Selected 14 day quarantine
- 30** - Critical Infrastructure
- 22** - Selected Out of State for not more than 24 hours
- 3** - Recovered from COVID-19

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>

The weekly free drive-up clinic was held August 5 and 6 on Berth 3. This week, there were **39** 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, **19** AMHS employees were tested.

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>

CARES Act Programs Available Through the Borough and City of Ketchikan

Programs for assisting local citizens and businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be available through the Borough and City of Ketchikan. The following Borough programs 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

The following City of Ketchikan programs 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

Free Face Masks and Hand Sanitizer

The EOC has set up nine (9) 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.

EOC Develops Risk Analysis to Determine Community Risk Level

The EOC continues 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.

Keep Ketchikan Safe

In its Weekly Case Update released on August 6th, the Alaska DHSS reported, in part, that:

- Alaska continues to have rapid increases in resident and nonresident new cases.
- Most new cases in Alaskans are acquired from other Alaskans who have not traveled.
- Transmission between Alaskans at social gatherings, within families, at community events, churches and bars has significantly contributed to the rise in cases.
- Alaskans should avoid gatherings, wear masks in public, keep six feet of distance from non-household members and practice good hand hygiene to slow transmission of COVID-19.

While Ketchikan has seen fewer positive test results this week compared to prior weeks, there is still the risk of virus spread in the community. In the last seven days, Ketchikan has seen **2** travel-related cases and one (1) case that was a close contact to a prior positive cases. 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.

COVID-19 Questions

Citizens are encouraged to submit questions related to COVID-19 in Ketchikan and local resources to: covidquestions@kgbak.us or to call 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. Additional current information is available on the State of Alaska's website at www.covid19.alaska.gov.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity
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