



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: ONE NEW POSITIVE RESIDENT | EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

Date: August 14, 2020
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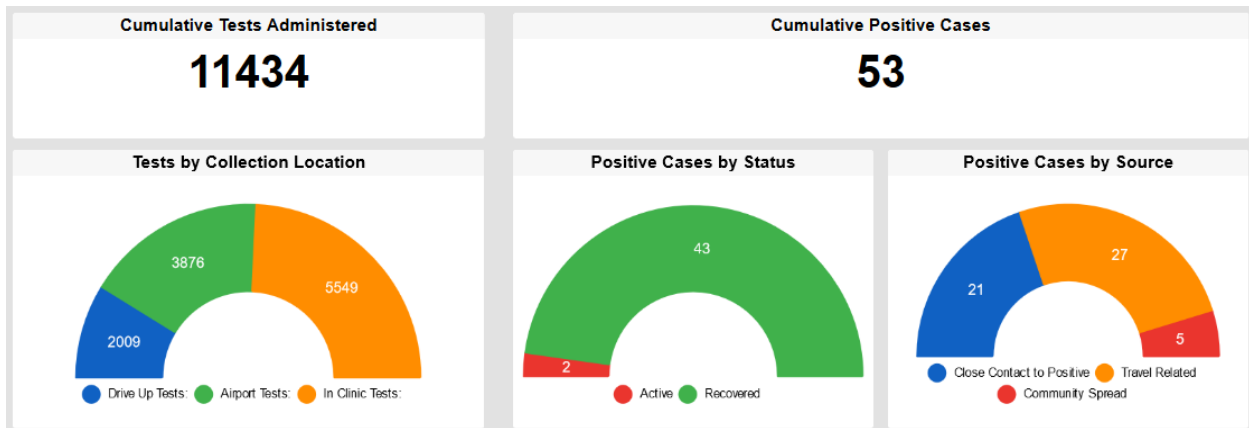
For Immediate Release

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

One new positive test result for COVID-19 has been identified through a local health clinic. This individual is a Ketchikan resident who is experiencing mild symptoms. This individual has been notified of the positive test result, has been directed to isolate, and is being monitored by healthcare providers. The source of this case is a close contact to a known positive case.

The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, is 53. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 45. Of the 45 cases, 2 are still active, and 43 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:	3,402
	Test kits on order:	10,000

Current Community Risk Level

Community Risk	Recommended General Mitigation Measures*
Level 1 - Low	<p>Minimum: Can travel outside home with safety measures** Schools: Staff 100%, Students 100% with safety measures*** Indoor and Outdoor mass gatherings with safety measures** gatherings >500 people requires coordination with and plan submitted to EOC in advance Businesses open with safety measures** Healthcare services with safety measures** Minimal safe visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with safety measures**</p>

The EOC has developed 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.

The current Community Risk Level is at **Level 1 – Low**.

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.

Changes to Health Mandate 10 Implemented August 11th

The new requirements under Health Mandate 10 went into effect on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The most notable changes are:

1. Traveler Declarations 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. Resident travelers have the option to quarantine or take a test on arrival and quarantine until the results are received.
4. After the first initial travel test with a negative result, the traveler must follow strict social distancing* for 14 days or until they leave the state (whichever occurs first); OR until the traveler receives negative results from a second test taken 7-14 days after arrival.
5. Intrastate testing (for travel between Alaskan communities) is now 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>.

***Strict Social Distancing is Defined As:**

- i. Strict social distancing is allowed after you have one negative test result from a test taken within 72 hours of departure or on arrival into Alaska.
- ii. You may be in an outdoor public place, but you must remain 6 feet away from anyone not in your immediate household, and you must wear a face covering. You may arrange curbside shopping or have food delivery.
- iii. You cannot enter restaurants, bars, gyms, community centers, sporting facilities (i.e., ice rinks, gymnasiums, sports domes), office buildings, school or daycare facilities. Do not participate in any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals or other gatherings.
- iv. This 14-day window can be shortened by receiving a negative result from a molecular-based test for SARS-CoV2 test taken between 7-14 days after arrival into Alaska.

The Airport Traveler Testing Site has relocated to the Gravina side of the airport. The new testing operation is set up adjacent to the airport terminal building. After deplaning, interstate and intrastate 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 outside of the exit door by baggage claim. **The new hours of the Airport Traveler Testing Site are: 7:45 to 9:30 a.m.; 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.; 4:15 to 6:30 p.m.**

Airport Traveler Testing Statistics and Information

This week, there were **250** initial arriving passenger tests issued through the traveler testing site. There were **124** follow-up voucher tests issued to travelers 7-14 days after their arrival to Ketchikan. Additional traveler statistics and data will be available in upcoming EOC updates.

AMHS COVID-19 protocols for passengers are available at: <http://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/covid19.shtml>

Drive-up Testing on Berth 3 now includes those who seek testing related to travel; are using a state-issued 7-14 day follow up test voucher; show any symptoms of COVID-19; are asymptomatic individuals who meet one of the following criteria: those with health conditions; age 65 or older; health care workers; care providers; or first responders.

Testing for travelers arriving from means other than commercial airlines at the airport will be conducted at the Berth 3 Drive-Up Testing Site. These travel-related tests, along with any 7-14 day follow-up voucher tests conducted at Berth 3, will be processed with the tests collected through the Airport Traveler Testing Site. These traveler tests can take up to 7 days for results, but are currently averaging a 2-3 day turnaround time for results. Travelers with a PeaceHealth user account will receive results via email to their PeaceHealth account. All travelers will receive a phone call with their results.

The clinic will be open daily Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 am; and 2:30-4:30 pm.

People seeking testing related to travel or using a State-issued 7-14 day follow up test voucher will use the Alaska Travel portal app available at <https://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com/>.

This week, there were **44** people tested at the Berth 3 Drive-Up Clinic.

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, **18** 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

Face Mask Distribution by EOC Logistics Chief

To date, the EOC Logistics Chief Steve Rydeen has delivered **24,000** masks to Ketchikan businesses, agencies, and individuals.

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.

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)

Thank You for Keeping Ketchikan Safe

As is evidenced by our current low risk category assessment, Ketchikan has done a great job of flattening the curve of COVID-19 in Ketchikan . If we each continue to do our part, together we can keep Ketchikan safe. 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/covid19. Additional current information is available on the State of Alaska's website at www.covid19.alaska.gov. The declaration form, Health Mandate 10.1, and additional information for travelers is available at: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity
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