



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

MEDIA RELEASE: CHANGE IN COMMUNITY RISK STATUS TO LEVEL 2: MODERATE

Date: August 21, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

The three positive cases announced on Tuesday have been determined to be unrelated to recent travel and unrelated to close contact of a known positive. Therefore, the three cases have been categorized as "community spread."

Although we have an overall low burden of cases and our healthcare system has the full capacity to safely care for the cases, we currently have an outbreak with the three community spread cases. With the identification of three community spread cases, the Community Risk Level for Ketchikan has been raised to **Level 2: Moderate**.

Level 2 - Moderate	<p>Moderate: Can travel outside home with safety measures Schools: Staff 100%, Students 100% with safety measures*** Indoor mid-size gatherings <50 with safety measures** Outdoor mid-size gatherings <100 with safety measures** Businesses limited openings with safety measures** Healthcare services with safety measures (e.g. elective procedures)** No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with safety measures**</p>
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Under Level 2: Moderate, the following health and safety precautions are recommended:

- Public Health Social Measures: Strongly recommend masks and six (6) feet social distancing in communal settings and public locations with 20 or more people;
- Businesses and Offices: Strongly recommend reduced capacity to ensure physical distancing including staggered schedules or teleworking, etc.
- Bars, Restaurants, Personal Services, Gyms: Strongly recommend reduced capacity to ensure physical distancing; recommend reservations; encourage delivery or curbside pickup; personal services by appointment; no waiting areas; limit inside capacity to 50%.

We encourage Ketchikan residents, businesses, and organizations to follow these recommendations for the health and safety of our community. If we work together to protect ourselves and others, we can reduce the spread and see the risk level lowered.

The EOC will continue to monitor the cases and will adjust the Community Risk Level as appropriate. There are several indicators that can trigger an increase or a decrease in the risk level. These indicators include the number of total positive cases, the number of community spread cases, the level of testing, the healthcare capacity, and the level of contact tracing.

The cumulative COVID-19 case count in Ketchikan, including travelers, is 60. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 50. Of the 50 cases, 7 are still active, and 43 have recovered.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop any symptoms, no matter how minor—such as a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing—call your healthcare provider for medical advice or use the Testing Hotline and call 247-TEST (8378).

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan, including additional data regarding Ketchikan’s community risk, is provided at www.kgbak.us/covid19.

Information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.covid19.alaska.gov.

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