



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: EOC COVID-19 UPDATES

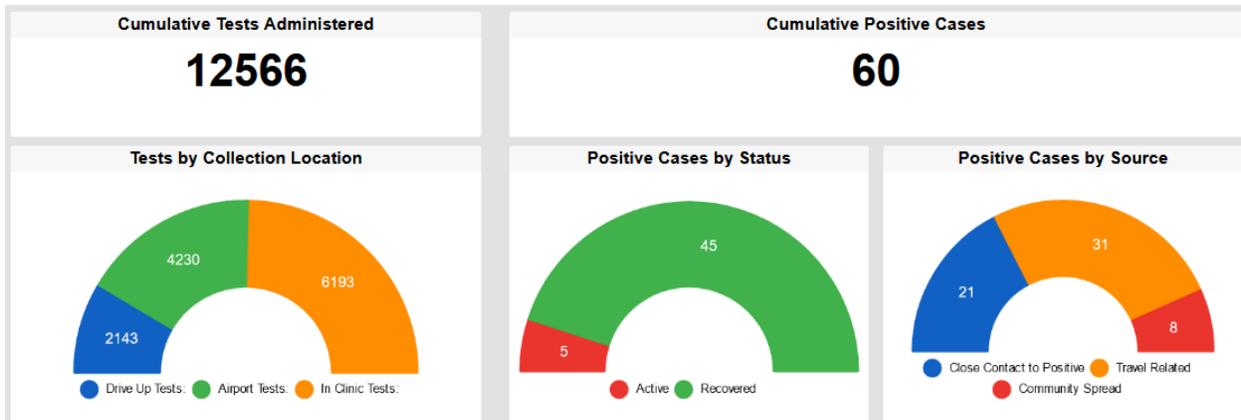
Date: August 21, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

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 cases identified in Ketchikan today. The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, is 60. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 50. Of the 50 cases, 5 are still active, and 45 have recovered.



The current Community Risk Level is at Level 2 – Moderate.

Level 2 - Moderate	<p>Moderate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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**
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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.

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.

Questions about the Community Risk Level?

The Ketchikan EOC has developed a COVID-19 Community Risk Level Matrix 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 risk level document tracks three categories of the virus in the community: Disease Situation, Health Care Capacity, and the Disease Control. The matrix also describes the various indicators that are used to increase and decrease the community risk level, and provides recommendations for the community mitigation measures for each level of risk.

The Community Risk Levels and Mitigation Measures document is available at www.bit.ly/ktn-covid19-risk

Keep Ketchikan Safe

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.

The Airport Traveler Testing Site is located 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 Airport Traveler Testing Site is open:

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 **291** initial arriving passenger tests issued through the traveler testing site. There were **73** follow-up voucher tests issued to travelers 7-14 days after their arrival to Ketchikan.

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

Drive-up Testing on Berth 3 offers testing for:

- Anyone showing any symptoms of COVID-19;
- 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;
- Those who seek testing related to travel; or are using a state-issued 7-14 day follow up test voucher;
- Travelers arriving from means other than commercial airlines at the airport.

The Drive-Up Clinic is open 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/>.

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>

New CARES Act Programs Added and Extended This Week

The following Borough programs are available at www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms:

Family Child Care Assistance Program: This week a new Family Child Care Assistance Program was made available by the Borough and is being administered through Residential Youth Care (RYC). The program provides financial support of \$500 per child, ages 12 and under to families who have experienced economic difficulty due to COVID-19. Program details and application forms are available at <http://www.rycalaska.com/covidrelief.html>

Start-Up Business Grant Program: Businesses that registered for Borough sales tax between October 1, 2019 and August 15, 2020 and which have not been eligible for the CARES Act Business Grant or Micro Business Grant Programs, may be eligible for a one-time payment of \$1,000. To be eligible, provide proof of expenditures for your business of \$5,000 or more, between October 1 and July 31. Examples of eligible expenses include rent or lease payments, utilities, inventory, supplies, equipment, payroll, taxes, benefits, advertising, and insurance.

Micro Business Grant Program: Businesses with revenue of at least \$10,000 but less than \$100,000 during CY 2019, and suffering a revenue decline of 40% or more during Second Quarter CY 2020, compared to Second Quarter CY 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are eligible to apply for a grant. Grant awards will be based on a percentage of lost revenue. The minimum grant award is \$500. This program is limited to for-profit enterprises only. Deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2020.

Non-Profit Relief and Recovery Grant Program: Qualifying Ketchikan Gateway Borough non-profit organizations may apply for grants up to \$20,000. Applications will only be considered from organizations based in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough or those non-profits with offices and substantial operations in Ketchikan prior to January 1, 2019. Applications will be accepted between August 20, 2020 and September

21, 2020. Prior receipt of a CARES Act grant from the Borough or City of Ketchikan does not preclude an organization from applying for a Phase 2 non-profit grant.

Round 2 non-profit awards and actual award amounts will be considered based on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on an organization, services provided in response to the pandemic, number of individuals served and overall impact on the community, and amount of the funding request with respect to the organization's most recent tax return.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Reimbursement Program: This program is for one-time assistance to reimburse small businesses and non-profit organizations in the Borough up to \$2500 for eligible expenses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hygiene, and social distancing supplies such as face masks, gloves, face shields, eye protection, sneeze guards, hand sanitizer and other approved disinfecting products. The application period will close by September 30, 2020. Reimbursements will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis for up to \$2500, in the order received, until funds are depleted. Previous applicants may apply again, up to a total award of \$2500.

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>

Utility Electric Subsidy for City and Borough Residents and Businesses. The CARES Act Utility Subsidy Program Payment Program was established for the purpose of providing economic support to individuals and businesses suffering an economic hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. An 'economic hardship' means, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, business or personal or household disposal income has decreased and/or normal business or person or household expenses have increased, such that it has been impossible or difficult to make ends meet and/or any money reserves of the applicant have been and/or are being significantly depleted and that the subsidy payments are needed in order to receive essential services. Deadline to apply is August 31st.

Moorage Subsidy for City and Borough Residents and Businesses. The CARES Act Moorage Subsidy Program Payment Program was established for the purpose of providing economic support to individuals and businesses suffering an economic hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. An 'economic hardship' means, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, business or personal or household disposal income has decreased and/or normal business or person or household expenses have increased, such that it has been impossible or difficult to make ends meet and/or any money reserves of the applicant have been and/or are being significantly expended. Deadline to apply is August 31st.

Non-Profit Relief for City and Borough organizations who provide for the vulnerable populations. Nonprofit Relief & Recovery Program General Information: The City of Ketchikan has made \$550,000 available to the nonprofits of Ketchikan in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Community Connections, in collaboration with the City of Ketchikan, will operate and administer the program.

Child Care Subsidy for state-approved daycare providers in the City and Borough. The City of Ketchikan will provide AEYC with \$350,000 in grant funding to administer and provide funding in response to the COVID-19 Emergency to childcare operators meeting.

Face Mask Distribution by EOC Logistics Chief

To date, the EOC Logistics Chief Steve Rydeen has delivered **30,000** 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)

If you experience any symptoms of COVID-19, contact your regular provider or our testing hotline at 247-TEST (8378)

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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