



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

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

Date: September 4, 2020  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
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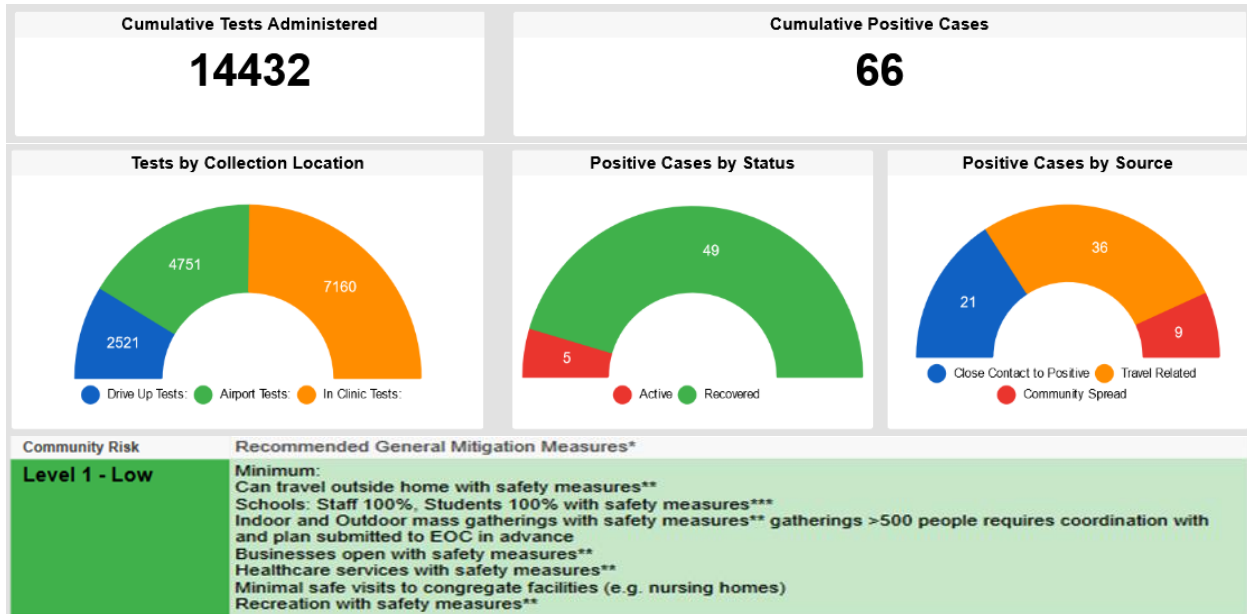
#### For Immediate Release

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 announced in Ketchikan today. The cumulative COVID-19 case count for Ketchikan, including travelers, remains at 66. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 54. Of the 54 cases, 5 are still active, and 49 have recovered.

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



#### Under Level 1-Low, the following health and safety precautions are recommended:

- Public Health Social Measures: Recommend masks in specific settings where social distancing can not be maintained;
- Schools: Schools open 100% with annex sites and safety measures.
- Travel: Health Mandate 10 plus recommend in-state travelers to test or quarantine.
- Businesses and Offices: Recommend following all public health safety measures outlined in the Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan. Recommend allowance of telework for employees that are, live with, or care for high-risk population.

- Bars, Restaurants, Personal Services, Gyms: Follow all public health safety measures in the Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan.

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 keep the risk level at Low.

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.

### **Community Risk Level Matrix**

The EOC developed the COVID-19 Community Risk Level Matrix 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](http://www.bit.ly/ktn-covid19-risk)

**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.**

### **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.

This week, there were **103** tests issued at the drive-up testing site.

**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/>.

AMHS COVID-19 protocols for passengers are available at:

<http://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/covid19.shtml>

### **CARES Act Programs Continue to Be Available Through City and Borough**

The following Borough funding programs are available at [www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms](http://www.kgbak.us/CARESActPrograms):

- Family Child Care Assistance Program
- Start-Up Business Grant Program
- Micro Business Grant Program
- Non-Profit Relief and Recovery Grant Program
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Reimbursement Program
- Mortgage and Rent Assistance

The following City of Ketchikan funding programs are available at [www.ktn-ak.us/Community-COVID-19-Response](http://www.ktn-ak.us/Community-COVID-19-Response)

- Utility Electric Subsidy Grant Program
- Moorage Subsidy Grant Program
- Non-Profit Relief Grant Program
- Child Care Subsidy Grant Program

### **Face Mask Distribution by EOC Logistics Chief**

To date, the EOC Logistics Chief Steve Rydeen has delivered over **45,000** 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](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.

### **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)**

### **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.

### **COVID-19 Questions and EOC Information**

Citizens are encouraged to submit questions related to COVID-19 in Ketchikan and local resources to: [covidquestions@kgbak.us](mailto:covidquestions@kgbak.us) or to call 228-2464.

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](http://www.kgbak.us/covid19). Additional current information is available on the State of Alaska's website at [www.covid19.alaska.gov](http://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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