



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FIVE NEW POSITIVES & CHANGE IN COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL

Date: October 7, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

There were five (5) new positive cases of COVID-19 reported in Ketchikan today. This brings the total number of new cases this week to eight (8). One case was travel related and the other seven (7) are close contact to a known positive. Of the eight individuals, 5 were symptomatic with primary symptoms of headache and body aches. All eight (8) cases are associated with a single location/outbreak and not community spread.

Public Health has been notified, is conducting contact investigations and will reach out to anyone believed to have been in close contact with any of the positive individuals.

Although we continue to have an overall low burden of cases and our healthcare system has the full capacity to safely care for the cases, the positive test rate has risen to approximately 1.3%, indicating a greater prevalence of the virus in our community and causing the EOC to raise our Community Risk Level 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%.
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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.

Changes in Operating Procedures for the KGB and KGBSD:

- Gateway Recreation Center: The facility will limit the number of patrons in the weight and cardio rooms. All class sizes will be limited. Check in procedure will remain the same.

- Borough Buses: **Face coverings must be put on prior to boarding bus:** wear your face covering when at the bus stop and while riding the bus. Please do not board the bus without your face covering and do not remove it while riding. If you do not have a face covering please allow other passengers who are wearing one to board first. You may then board to get a face covering then step off the bus to put on the face covering. Once your face covering is on then you may pay your fare and find a seat. Save your face covering for faster boarding in the future.
- Ketchikan Gateway School District: No Changes-Schools will remain open 100% with annexes and with safety protocols in place.

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 77. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 65. Of the 65 cases, 8 are still active, and 57 have recovered.

COVID-19 cases are continuing to rise all across Alaska. Statewide numbers are at all-time highs We are urging everyone to do the following to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Do the 3 W's: Wear a mask, watch your distance and wash your hands.
- Avoid the 3 C's: Crowded places, close contact settings and confined/enclosed spaces. Keep contacts limited and social circles small. Avoid indoor gatherings.
- Don't ride in cars with people who are not in your household bubble.
- Limit your errands/outings.
- Watch out for COVID-19 symptoms. Get tested even if you have just one symptom or mild symptoms.
- Don't be around others if you are not feeling well. Stay home and isolate immediately.
- If you test positive, let close contacts know so they can protect others.
- Quarantine quickly if you are exposed to COVID-19, for a full 14 days.
- Consider getting tested 5-14 days after any possible exposure.
- Protect our health care system – get your flu shot, wear a helmet, stay safe.

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 <https://www.kgbak.us/913/COVID-19-Response>

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