



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

### MEDIA RELEASE: COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL INCREASES TO HIGH

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

There were seven new cases of Covid-19 identified so far in Ketchikan today as well as three new hospitalizations. Bringing our current hospitalizations to 4 and active cases to 43.

Despite the extra testing that has been conducted, Ketchikan’s positivity rate for Covid-19 has exceeded 2%. This high rate combined with the four total hospitalizations in the last two days has caused Ketchikan’s Risk Level to be raised to **Level-3 High**.

#### Ketchikan’s Community Risk Level-3-HIGH

<b>Level 3 - High</b>	<p>Significant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit non-essential travel outside home</li> <li>Schools: Open 50% with annex sites and safety measures***</li> <li>Indoor: Limited small &lt;20 mass gatherings with safety precautions (funeral, wedding, etc.)</li> <li>Outdoor: Limited small &lt;30 gatherings with safety precautions</li> <li>Businesses limited openings with safety measures**</li> <li>Modified healthcare services (e.g. telemedicine, essential care, chronic care)</li> <li>No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes)</li> <li>Recreation with expanded safety measures (e.g. low risk) **</li> </ul>
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#### What does the change in Risk level to High mean?

**Recommended Changes** to Businesses and Organizations are as follows:

- Strongly recommend masks and social distancing be enforced in communal settings and public locations with 5 or more people. If six-foot distancing is not possible, then mask should be worn.
- Strongly recommend businesses encourage telework to the maximum extent possible, reduce capacity to ensure physical distancing can be maintained not to exceed 50% capacity; close shared spaces such as break rooms, kitchens, etc.
- Strongly recommend bars closed, restaurants reduce capacity to 50% and ensure physical distancing with reservations required. Delivery or curbside pick encouraged.
- Personal services (nail and hair salons, massages, etc.) appointments only with one customer per each service provider. No waiting areas.
- Gyms-no group activities and limit capacity to 25%.
- Indoor gatherings limited to fewer than 20 individuals.
- Outdoor gatherings limited to fewer than 30 individuals.
- Modified Healthcare services (telemedicine, essential care, chronic care)
- Stop non-essential visits to Pioneer Home, Jail, Youth Center, WISH.

#### How does this affect the School District?

- Superintendent Lougee has scheduled an Emergency school board meeting tonight at 6:00 pm in the Kayhi Library to obtain approval from the board for a change in the Smart Start level from low to medium, based on the change in the community’s risk level. Details will follow from the district, but the proposal is as follows: no change to Elementary schools and KCS middle school, as measures have already been in place for limited class sizes and other health and safety measures. The change would take the secondary schools (Schoenbar, Revilla, Kayhi) to the 50% blended learning option. More information on the school district

Smart Start plan can be found at <https://www.kqbsd.org/> after the emergency school board meeting tonight and individual school principals will send out updated information via messenger.

**City of Ketchikan and KPU Changes:**

- **All City of Ketchikan and KPU facilities** will be closed to the public effective 8 am Thursday, November 5, but services will still be available via phone and email.
- KPU Customer Service can be reached at 228-5474, or [cserv@ktn-ak.us](mailto:cserv@ktn-ak.us); a table in the Plaza Mall is available for forms, and payment drop boxes can be found in the ATM area of the Plaza Mall, at A&P Grocery and at the City Hall back door near the Council Chamber entrance.
- City Hall switchboard can be reached at 225-3111, drop boxes for payment are located at the City Hall back door, near the Council Chamber entrance.
- Ketchikan Emergency Service including Police and Fire will continue to operate at full capacity

**Ketchikan Gateway Borough Changes:**

The **White Cliff Building** will remain open to the public, with the following measures in place:

- All public meetings will be held electronically.
- Masks required for the public and staff.
- Reduction of in-person staff; telecommuting encouraged.
- Citizens are encouraged to conduct business over the phone or internet. Visit [www.kqbak.us](http://www.kqbak.us) for services.

The **Gateway Recreation Center** will remain open with the following measures in place during Level 3:

- Gymnasiums, racquetball courts, locker rooms, and sauna will be closed.
- Open swims, swim lessons, group activities, league sports, spectators will be cancelled.
- No loitering will be allowed.
- The following activities would be limited to 25 percent capacity: track, weight room, cardio room, children's room, lap swim (one individual per lane).

**The Borough Transit Bus Program will be adjusted as follows during Level 3:**

- Bus capacity will be limited to 10-15 riders at one time. That is 10 individuals or up to 15 if people riding together (such as couples or parents with children or individuals that share a household). If a bus has 10-15 riders, it will not pickup additional passengers until someone exits. Consider taking an earlier bus to ensure you will make it to work on time. Avoid peak travel times 7 to 8 am, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and 4 to 6 pm.
- Paratransit capacity will be limited to 3 riders at one time.
- With these capacity limits, riders should only use public transit for essential trips, such as healthcare, appointments, employment, grocery shopping.
- Fare collection will be suspended
- Riders will be asked to board and exit from the rear doors and face coverings will be required prior to boarding and riding public transit or paratransit.
- Social distancing shall be maintained while waiting to board the bus and while on-board the bus.

**North Tongass and South Tongass Volunteer Fire Departments:**

- Cancelled all in-person training and drills as well as public meetings.
- The front doors of STVFD will be locked.

**The Pat Wise Animal Shelter:**

- Volunteer program suspended.
- All members of the public will be required to wear a mask. One individual or a group of no more than three will be allowed at any one time.

**The City of Saxman Changes:**

The City of Saxman facilities have implemented the following measures for Level 3:

- Saxman City Hall is closed to the public with staff in rotating shifts.
- Citizens are encouraged to conduct business over the phone by calling 225-4166.

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](http://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](http://www.covid19.alaska.gov).

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