



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

MEDIA RELEASE: ELEVEN NEW POSITIVES

Date: November 6, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

Ketchikan had eleven additional Covid-19 cases reported today. Two of the positive individuals were determined to be close contacts of known positive(s), one was a recent traveler, one was determined to be community spread, and seven are still under investigation by Public Health.

The one individual who was under investigation from yesterday was determined to be a close contact of known positive(s).

There were no new hospitalizations today. The four previous previously hospitalized patients remain hospitalized.

The newly identified positives have been notified of the positive test results, have been directed to isolate, and are being monitored by healthcare providers. Public Health has begun the contact investigation and will be in touch with anyone who may have been in close contact with these individuals; however, Public Health is also asking certain individuals to reach out to their own close contacts and advise them to quarantine for 14 days. This has become necessary since the Health Department's caseload has increased substantially in the last week.

Today's case brings the cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 149. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 137. Of the 137 cases, 59 are still active, and 78 have recovered.

Although there have been nine cases of community spread in the last week, the Community Risk level is remaining at Level 3-High, and is **not** being raised to Level 4-Very High due to the following factors:

1. The community has implemented the level 3 risk mitigation measures, and expect that these will help to reduce the infection rate.
2. The rate of community spread has declined over the past 5 days.

It is critical that we each follow the EOC's recommended mitigation measures in order to stay in Risk Level 3 and not increase to the next level. We need to reduce our daily case count and eliminate the community spread cases in order to stay in Level 3. The EOC will be carefully monitoring the situation and will increase the Risk Level to Level 4 – High if necessary. At Risk Level 4, we would be recommending business closures and a hunker down order. We urge all citizens to do their part to follow these mitigation measures now.

Recommended Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

What if you were in contact with a known positive?

If you are being tested because of symptoms or a close contact:

- Stay at home until your test results are back (except to get medical care).
- Avoid all public places and transportation.
- Keep at least 6 feet from people and animals, including those in your household.
- Avoid sharing personal household items, wash your hands and high touch surfaces regularly.
- Inform your work, (or your child's school) that you are awaiting results.

What if your result is negative?

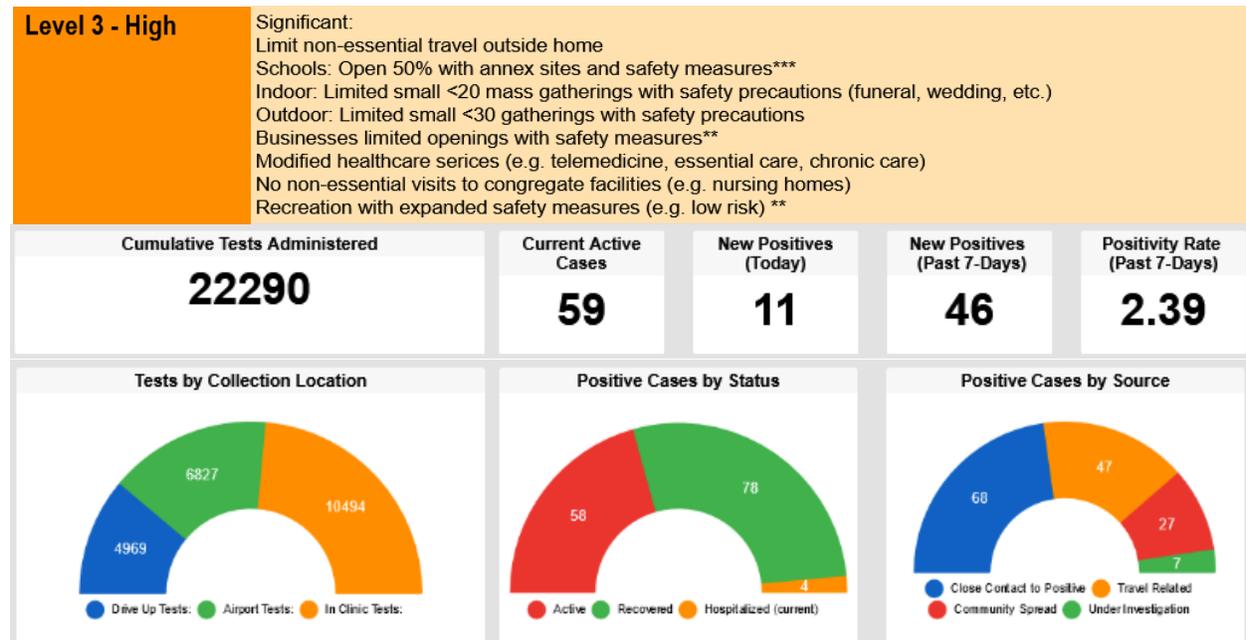
- **If you are a close contact to a person who is positive and you have tested negative, please follow the health department's instructions and remain quarantined**, because you could still become positive.

What if your result is positive?

Most people do well, but it is important to take care of your health and protect those around you

- Stay at home and avoid all public places and transportation until cleared by public health from isolation (except to get medical care).
- Keep at least 6 feet from people and animals, including those in your household.
- Avoid sharing personal household items (including the restroom), wash your hands and high touch surfaces regularly. • Inform your work (or your child's school) that you are positive.
- Wear a face covering if your symptoms allow, even in the house when not in a separate bedroom.
- Designate one household member to bring you food and other necessities.
- If you need non-medical help (e.g., groceries or other support) call 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221.
- Notify your close contacts (i.e., anyone who was within 6 feet of you for 15 minutes or longer during the two days prior to when your symptoms started, or when you were tested, whichever is earlier) that they need to quarantine for 14 days from the time you were last together.

Ketchikan's Community Risk Level-3-HIGH



For additional information on the Community Risk Level Matrix, please visit:
<http://www.bit.ly/ktn-covid19-risk>

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan 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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