



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

### **MEDIA RELEASE: KETCHIKAN COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL UPDATE**

Date: November 12, 2020, 1:20 p.m.  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

#### **For Immediate Release**

Earlier today Governor Dunleavy issued a statement strongly urging Alaskans to take immediate action to slow the spread of Covid-19. He announced that the State of Alaska is in the “red zone” for Covid-19 cases. We have received many questions about how this announcement affects the Ketchikan Community Risk Level. This release will respond to those questions.

**State of Alaska Alert Level is at Level 3 – High.** Below is an excerpt from Governor Dunleavy’s 10:00 a.m. announcement:

*“Governor Dunleavy and Alaska’s public health officials are now asking all businesses, organizations, and local governments to take the following actions through the end this month:*

- *Businesses, organizations, and local governments that can operate remotely are urged to send their employees home as soon as possible.*
- *Businesses and organizations that can offer food and supplies online with curbside pickup are urged to do so.*

*Distance remains the primary tool in slowing the spread of COVID-19. In order to keep hospitals, health care facilities, and businesses operating, all Alaskans are urged to:*

- *Maintain a distance of six feet apart from all non-household members.*
- *If a distance of six feet apart is not possible, wear a mask or face covering. ”*

#### **State of Alaska Alert Level 3 – High is Substantially Similar to Ketchikan’s Risk Level 3 – High**

The State of Alaska has three alert levels – Low, Intermediate, and High. The Community of Ketchikan has four levels: Low, Moderate, High, and Very High. In comparing the mitigation factors and recommendations to the community, the State’s Level High is very similar to Ketchikan’s Level High, which is our current risk level.

We agree with the Governor’s recommendations, and believe that our Level High recommendations are substantially in line with the State’s Level High. We have added one additional recommendation in bold below to bring our mitigation factors more closely in line with the State. Here are the mitigation factors for Ketchikan’s Risk Level 3 – High:

- Strongly recommend masks and social distancing be practiced in communal settings and public locations with 5 or more people. If six-foot distancing is not possible, then masks should be worn.
- **In light of the Governor’s announcement, we are strongly recommending that any Ketchikan businesses, organizations, and local governments that can operate remotely are urged to send their**

**employees home as soon as possible.** We strongly recommend businesses encourage telework to the maximum extent possible.

- For employees who cannot telework, we strongly recommend that the business 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.

**The Process to Assess and Change the Risk Level involves Local and State Leadership.**

The Ketchikan EOC operates under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) and includes a coordinated multi-agency response with members from local municipal governments, health care providers, and other local, state and federal agencies.

The Ketchikan EOC used many resources in the establishment and maintenance of the Community Risk Matrix, including: the Governor’s mandates and recommendations, State of Alaska DHSS leaders, including recommendations of Dr. Anne Zink; the guidance and standards of the State of Alaska EOC; and the National CDC standards.

The EOC Unified Command (UC) consists of Abner Hoage, Incident Commander, and Theresa Ruzek, Alaska Public Health Nurse IV. Before policy decisions are made by the UC, the policies are reviewed by the EOC Policy Group. The EOC Policy Group consists of the local municipal mayors, managers, assistant managers, attorneys, and the school district superintendent. Proposed community changes are reviewed by the policy group which makes recommendations to the UC.

Ketchikan’s Risk Matrix is specific to the needs of the community and responds to the unique characteristics of Ketchikan. While the Federal and State mandates and recommendations are used to develop local standards, the input of local health care professionals and community leaders is critical for making recommendations for Ketchikan’s residents. With this input and the concurrence of the members of the Policy Group, the Community Risk Level is determined.

**Our Community Risk Level remains at Level 3 – High.**

We continue to urge all citizens to follow the recommended mitigation measures so we can continue to realize a downward trend in positive cases.

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|-----------------------|---|
| <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> |
|-----------------------|---|

**We are seeing downward trends in our community spread cases.**

In the past seven days, we have seen a downward trend in our community spread cases. We are optimistic that this level peaked around November 7-9 and will continue to decline. See the graph below for additional information.

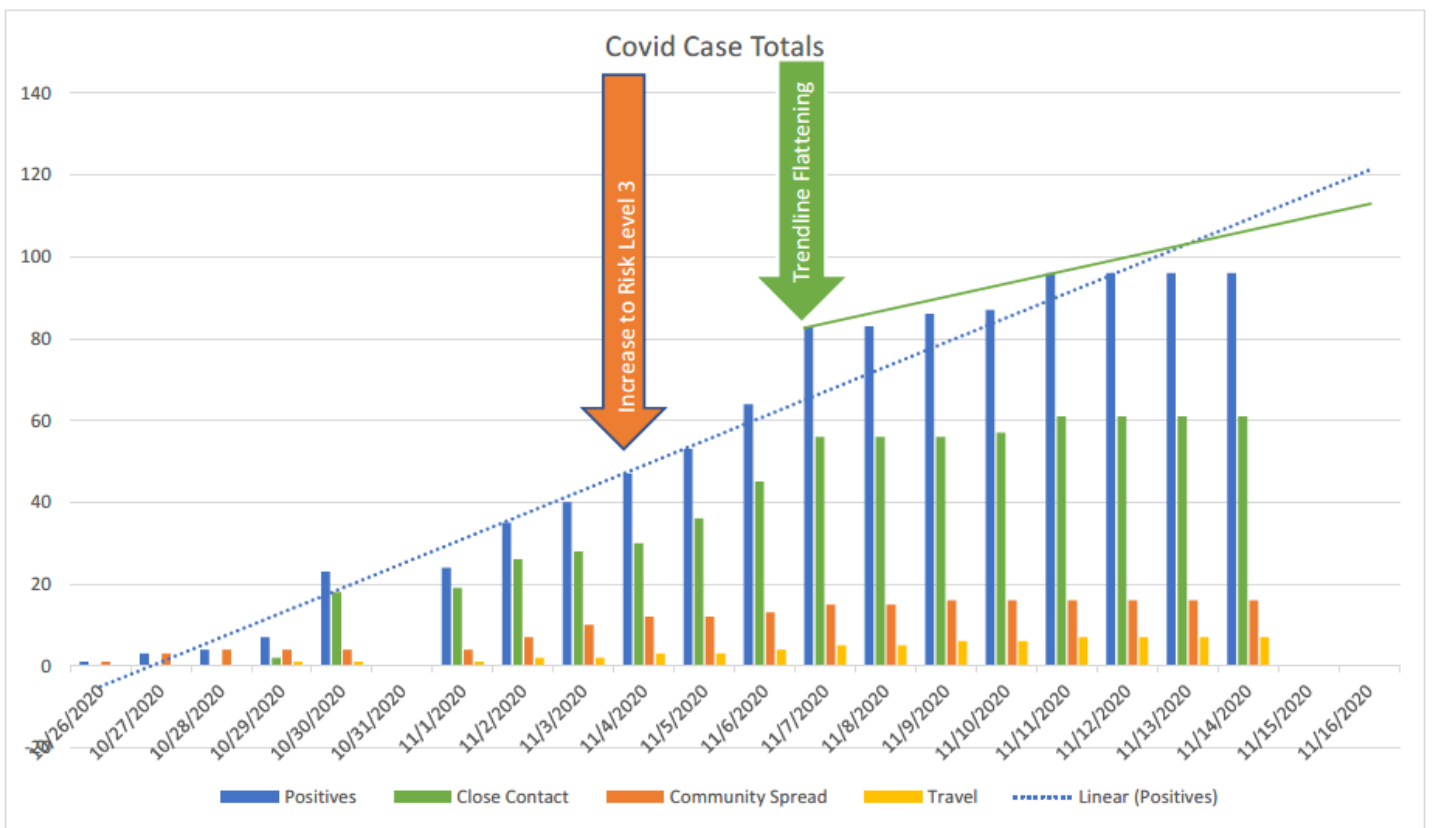
**The Number of Hospitalized Individuals Has Decreased.**

Last week we did have four individuals who were hospitalized due to their symptoms of Covid-19. Thankfully, three of those individuals have improved and have been discharged. One individual remains hospitalized in Ketchikan.

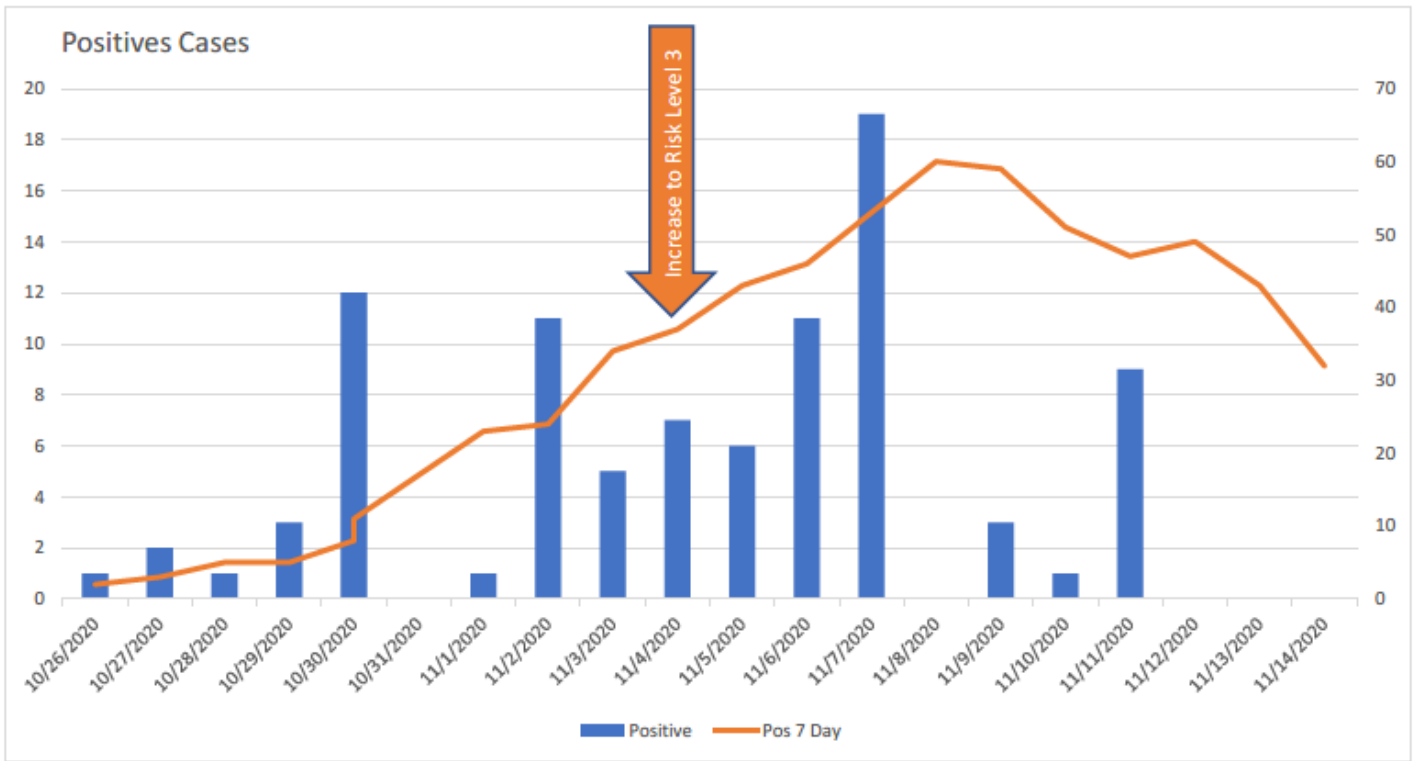
**We have seen a daily increase in the number of recovered individuals.**

Each day we are seeing a number of our positive cases recovering. For instance, on November 11, we did have nine new positive cases, but we also had six of the active cases recover.

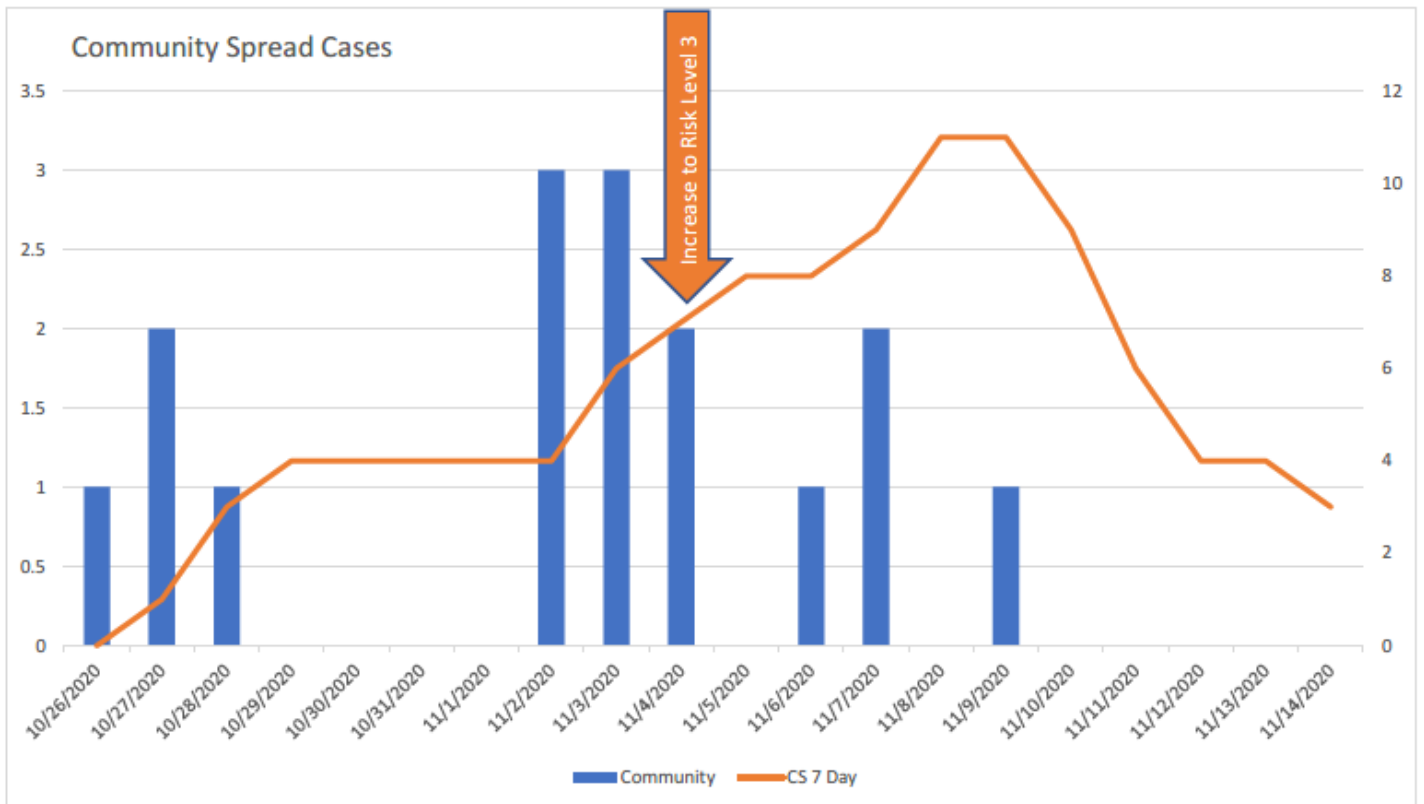
**Local Case Data and Trending Information is Provided Below**



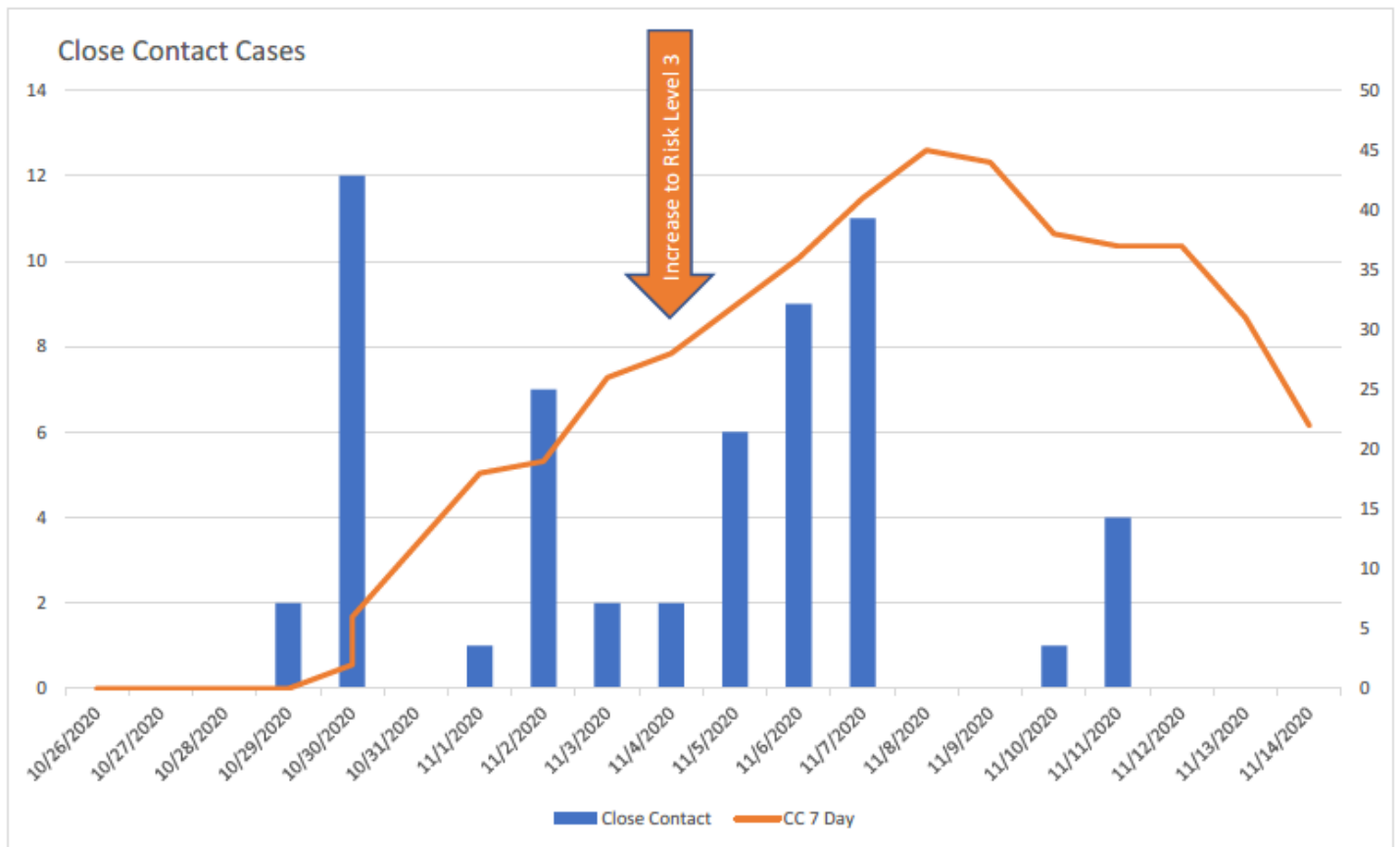
### Positive Cases



### Community Spread Cases



**Close Contact Cases**



**As of 5:00 p.m. on November 11<sup>th</sup>, our cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, is 181.** The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **169**. Of the 169 cases, **60** are still active, and **109** have recovered. We will provide an end-of-day release with any new cases reported for today.

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](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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