



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

MEDIA RELEASE: SIX NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

Date: November 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

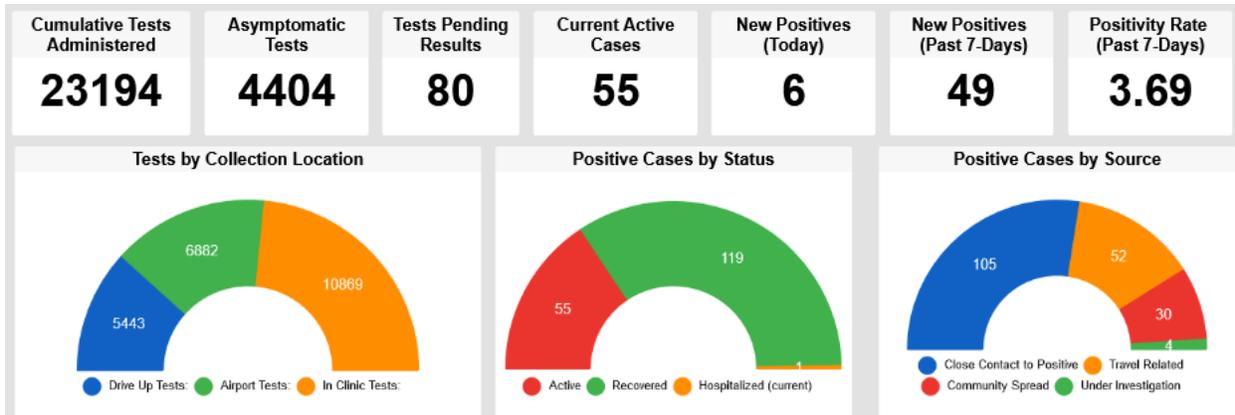
There were six new Covid-19 cases identified in Ketchikan today. Four of the cases were identified through local clinics, and two were identified through the airport traveler testing site. Of the two travel-related cases, both arrived on November 11th, both are currently asymptomatic, one individual is staying locally, and one individually was not staying locally. Of the four cases identified through clinics, all four are symptomatic and are close contacts to a known positive case and had been under quarantine. All of these individuals 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 investigations, and will coordinate with the positive individuals to reach out to anyone identified as close contacts, and advise those close contacts to quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts should receive a phone call either from Public Health or from the individual who tested positive. **Anyone with questions or concerns whether you are a close contact to a known positive case is welcome to call Public Health at 225-4350.**

Hospitalization Update: One patient who had been hospitalized due to Covid-19 illness has improved and was discharged today. Another individual who tested positive to Covid-19 was admitted to the hospital today. That individual remains hospitalized in the Covid-19 unit in Ketchikan.

Update on previously reported positive cases pending investigation: Regarding the four cases reported on November 11th that were pending investigation, all four were determined to be close contacts to a known positive case.

Today's cases bring the cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 187. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **174**. Of the 174 cases, **55** are still active, and **119** have recovered.





Drive Up Testing Clinic Update: The Drive-Up test results are complete through Wednesday, November 11th. Due to the volume of testing at Berth 3, only positive results will be notified by direct phone call. The date that drive up testing results are complete through has been added to the dashboard at www.kgbak.us/covid19. **If you tested on or before November 11th at the drive-up site, and have not been contacted, your result was negative.**

If you require a copy of your drive-up test results, please send an email to info@creeksidehealth.com and include: your full name, date of birth, date of test, and location of test. Your results will be emailed to you as soon as possible.

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.

Level 3 - High	Significant: Limit non-essential travel outside home Schools: Open 50% with annex sites and safety measures*** Indoor: Limited small <20 mass gatherings with safety precautions (funeral, wedding, etc.) Outdoor: Limited small <30 gatherings with safety precautions Businesses limited openings with safety measures** Modified healthcare services (e.g. telemedicine, essential care, chronic care) No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with expanded safety measures (e.g. low risk) **
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Risk Level 3 Recommended Mitigation Measures:

- 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 earlier today, 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.

Updates to City and Borough Facilities:

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Facilities:

- The following Borough facilities will be closed to the public effective Friday November 13 in response to the Governor's announcement earlier today:
 - ✓ White Cliff Building
 - ✓ Gateway Recreation and Aquatic Centers
 - ✓ Pat Wise Animal Shelter
- The Animal Protection Department will allow limited public access by appointment for the following purposes: adoptions, animal impounds, animal surrenders and returning animals to owners. Call 228-6660 to schedule an appointment for services. Patrons will be required to wear a mask during all scheduled appointments, which will be limited to one or two individuals (two people will be allowed for adoption appointments) per visit.
- Citizens are encouraged to conduct business over the phone or internet. Visit www.kgbak.us for services.

All City of Ketchikan and KPU facilities remain closed to the public but services will still be available via phone and email.

- KPU Customer Service can be reached at 228-5474, or 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

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

Hand Sanitizer and Mask Station Update: Free masks and a hand sanitizer refill station is located at the Plaza west entrance (entrance closest to Safeway) near the ATM machine.

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.