



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

### MEDIA RELEASE: ONE NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Date: November 18, 2020  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

#### For Immediate Release

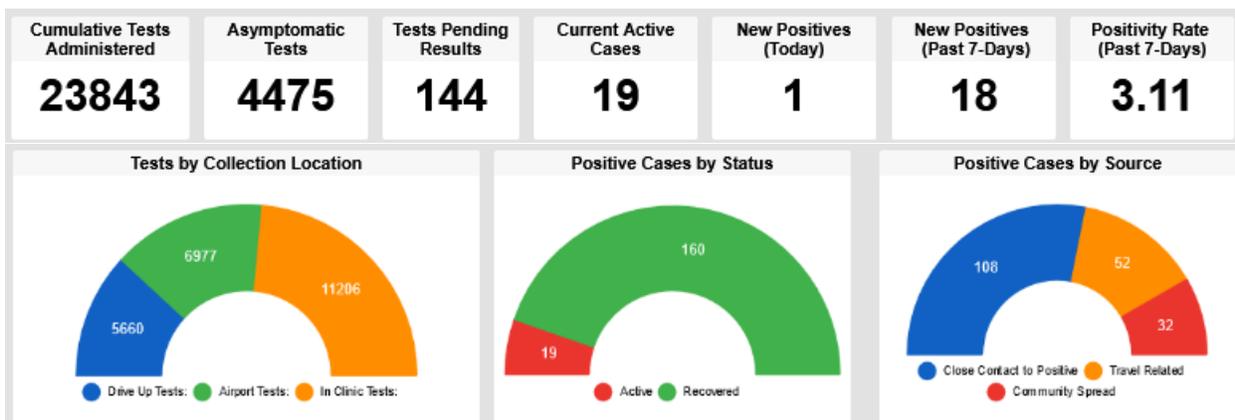
One new case of Covid-19 was reported in Ketchikan today. This individual was a close contact of a previous positive case and sought testing at a local clinic upon experiencing symptoms. This person has been notified of the positive test result, has been directed to isolate, and is being monitored by healthcare providers.

Public Health completed the contact investigation and coordinated with the positive individual 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:** We currently have no hospitalizations. The individual previously admitted to the Covid-19 unit has been discharged.

**Update on cases pending investigation:** The source of the case announced on November 17 that was pending investigation has determined to be community spread.

**Today's cases bring the cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 192.** The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **179**. Of the 179 cases, **19** are still active, and **160** have recovered.



**Temporary Delay for Local Drive-Up and Airport Traveler Testing Results:** Tests conducted at the Drive-up Testing clinic and the Airport Traveler Testing site will experience a longer turnaround time of 2 to 5 days for results. This delay is expected to affect tests conducted Tuesday, November 17, through Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

This is due to a delay by the manufacturer in shipping the reagent for the rapid laboratory processing that is used by Creekside Clinic. The reagent has been shipped and is expected by November 21<sup>st</sup> at the latest. It could arrive as soon as November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Until the reagent arrives, the test samples will be sent to one of two laboratories located in Washington. These are the same laboratories that processed the test results prior to Creekside implementing the rapid testing machine and laboratory. While the turnaround time for the results sent to the Washington laboratories can be as much as 2 to 5 days, we had previously experienced a 36 to 48 hour turnaround time for most of the test results from these labs.

Once the reagent arrives, Creekside will resume use of the rapid test machine and laboratory for processing tests from the Drive-Up Testing and Airport Testing sites. To ensure that the delay does not occur again, Creekside has increased the supply for future shipments.

**The Drive-Up test results are complete through Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.** 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](http://www.kgbak.us/covid19). **If you tested on or before November 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

<b>Level 3 - High</b>	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 November 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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).