



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

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

Date: November 19, 2020; 5:45 p.m.  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

#### For Immediate Release

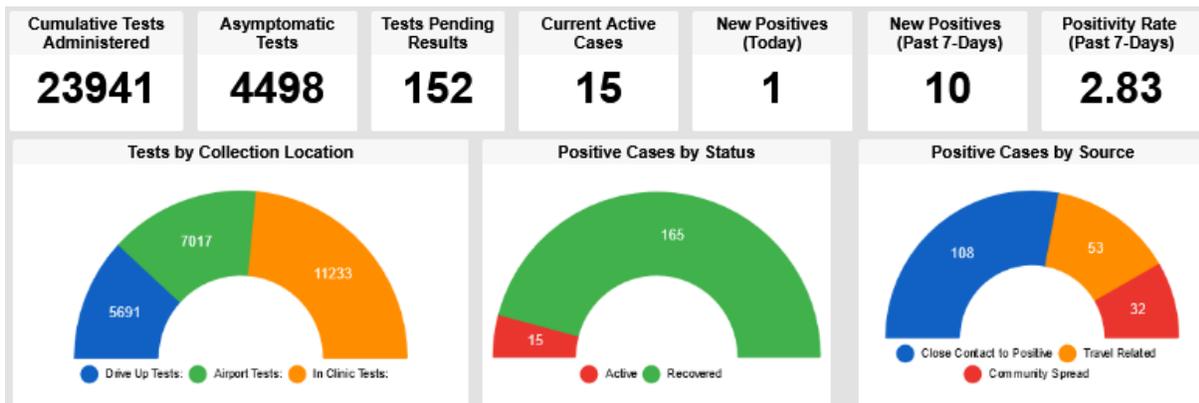
One new case of Covid-19 was reported in Ketchikan today through the airport traveler testing site. This individual is a Ketchikan resident who returned to Ketchikan on November 17, and is currently symptomatic. This person has been notified of the positive test result, has been directed to isolate, and is being monitored by healthcare providers. Public Health has begun the contact investigation and will coordinate 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 received no reports of any individuals hospitalized today in the PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center (PKMC) Covid-19 unit.

The EOC is able to provide information on the current number of individuals hospitalized at the PKMC Covid-19 Unit, but not the status of those individuals. The EOC does not have information about the identity of individuals who are positive cases or who have been admitted into the hospital. Additionally, the EOC, in general, does not have information on the status of individuals after they have been released or transferred from PKMC, unless we have been notified by the family. If a family provides information to us, we can work with them to coordinate the sharing of information. Please refer to our release issued at 3:15 p.m. today for information regarding a recent hospitalization.

**Update on cases pending investigation:** There were no cases pending investigation.

**Today's cases bring the cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 193.** The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **180**. Of the 180 cases, **15** are still active, and **165** have recovered.



**Local Laboratory Processing of Drive-Up and Airport Traveler Testing to Resume:** On November 18, we announced a longer turnaround time in the local processing of tests conducted at the Drive-up Testing

clinic and the Airport Traveler Testing site due to a manufacturer's delay in shipment of the reagent. We were informed by Creekside Clinic that the reagent was received today. Therefore, tests conducted Tuesday, November 17, through this morning were sent to the laboratory in Seattle. Results for those tests are expected to be received by November 23. Tests conducted beginning this afternoon will be processed locally with an expected 24 to 48-hour turnaround time for results.

**The Drive-Up test results are complete through Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.** 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. Individuals tested on or before November 14<sup>th</sup> received a phone call only if their result was positive. All individuals tested at drive up testing Tuesday, Wednesday and this morning will receive a phone call regardless of results because of the longer turnaround time for tests sent to the Quest laboratory. 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. Please take the extra precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones. While most people who get this virus are able to recover with few symptoms or long-term effects, there are many who are hit hard by Covid-19 and become very ill. It is for these most vulnerable members of our community that we need to stay diligent.

<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.

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).