



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

MEDIA RELEASE: COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL REDUCED TO MODERATE

Date: November 30, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kim Simpson, Deputy Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

Ketchikan has done a great job responding to the COVID-19 mitigation recommendations. We appreciate the sacrifice of the community to remain in Level 3 through the Thanksgiving Holiday. Your hard work has paid off and we are able to lower the Risk Level.

Community Risk Level is Reduced to Level 2 - Moderate

Ketchikan has had no new positive COVID-19 cases since November 25th. The number of community spread cases in the past seven days is two (2) and the number of travel-related cases in the past seven days is three (3). The positivity rate (percentage of positive tests conducted) is currently at 1.19%.

Based on these statistics, and considering the recommendations of Governor Dunleavy and the CDC guidelines, the EOC has lowered the Community Risk Level to Level 2 – Moderate.

Level 2 - Moderate	<p>Moderate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can travel outside home with safety measures Schools: Staff 100%, Students 100% with safety measures*** Indoor mid-size gatherings <50 with safety measures** Outdoor mid-size gatherings <100 with safety measures** Businesses limited openings with safety measures** Healthcare services with safety measures (e.g. elective procedures)** No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with safety measures**
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Under Level 2: Moderate, the following health and safety precautions are recommended:

- Public Health Social Measures: Strongly recommend masks and six (6) feet social distancing in communal settings and public locations with 20 or more people;
- Businesses and Offices: Strongly recommend reduced capacity to ensure physical distancing including staggered schedules or teleworking, etc.
- Bars, Restaurants, Personal Services, Gyms: Strongly recommend reduced capacity to ensure physical distancing; recommend reservations; encourage delivery or curbside pickup; personal services by appointment; no waiting areas; limit inside capacity to 50%.
- Travelers: Follow Alaska Health Orders 6 and 8; quarantine until receive results of negative test; follow strict social distancing for minimum of five days after arrival.

Increase in travelers brings risk of re-introduction of COVID-19

Increase in Travelers is Cause for Concern: Although the number of positive cases has decreased to the point where we can decrease the overall risk level, there has been an increase in travel and the risk of travel-related COVID-19 cases remains a concern.

Many of our families have college students and other family members coming home for the holidays. Other families are traveling to the Lower 48 or elsewhere in Alaska for the holidays and will be returning. The State of Alaska and many locations south remain in a High Risk Alert Level. With the increase in travel comes the increase risk of spread of COVID-19.

It is imperative for travelers to follow the quarantine and testing requirements in the Alaska Health Orders 6 and 8. We strongly recommend that travelers go above these requirements and follow the CDC's best practices for travelers, to ensure community health.



Travelers must follow quarantine and testing requirements.

- **Alaska Travel Requirements:** Quarantine until a negative test result is received and following strict social distancing for a minimum of five days after arrival.
- **Best Practices for Community Health:** Quarantine for 10-14 days after arrival, and receive a second negative test 7-14 days after arrival.

In order to remain at Level 2 and not increase to Level 3, Ketchikan residents need to be diligent in following all of the recommendations for health and safety precautions. As we learned in October, one positive case can easily lead to a cluster of cases with far-reaching effects. We encourage Ketchikan residents, visitors, businesses, and organizations to follow these recommendations for the health and safety of our community. If we work together to protect ourselves and others, we can reduce the spread and see the risk level lowered.



Thanks Ketchikan, your sacrifice has not gone without notice. Please remain diligent so we can stay at Level 2.

An update on Borough and City facilities will be provided at the end of day press release.

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan, including additional data regarding Ketchikan's community risk, is provided at www.kgbak.us/covid19.

The Alaska Health Orders are available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.covid19.alaska.gov.

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