



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FIVE NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

Date: December 3, 2020
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

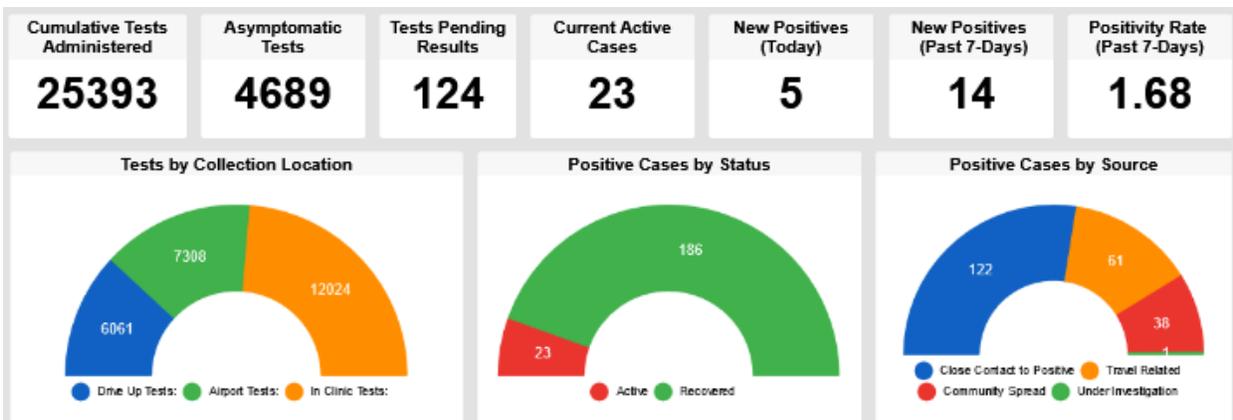
There are five new cases of COVID-19 to report today. All five individuals have been notified of the positive result and have been instructed to isolate.

- Two of the individuals sought testing through local clinics due to symptoms of COVID-19. Both individuals are close contacts to known positive cases. These contact investigations are still pending.
- One of the individuals tested positive through an employer-required screening process. This person is currently asymptomatic. The source of how this person contracted the virus is under investigation. The contact investigation for this case is ongoing.
- Two of the cases were identified through the Drive-Up Testing clinic on December 2nd. One of these individuals is symptomatic and one of the individuals is currently asymptomatic. The contact investigations for these two cases are complete and the close contacts have been notified.

Anyone with questions whether you are a close contact to a known positive is welcome to call Public Health at 225-4350

For the cases with pending contact investigations, Public Health is working with the positive individual to notify anyone identified as close contacts and advise those close contacts to quarantine. Close contacts should receive a phone call either from Public Health or from the individual who tested positive. Anyone with questions whether you are a close contact to a known positive case is welcome to call Public Health at 225-4350.

Today's cases bring the total cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 222. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **209**. Of the 209 cases, **23** are still active, and **186** have recovered.



Update on Cases Pending Source Data: There were no cases pending source investigations.

Hospitalization Update: We received no reports of any individuals hospitalized today in the PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center (PKMC) Covid-19 unit.

Drive-Up Test Result Update: Due to the volume of testing at Berth 3 only positive results will be notified by direct phone call. The Berth 3 Drive-Up results are complete through December 1st. **If you tested on or before December 1st and have not been contacted, your result was negative.** Please refer to the dashboard at www.kgbak.us/covid19 for the most current information on Drive-Up Testing results. If you require a copy of your test result. Please send an email to info@creeksidehealth.com and include your full name, date of birth, date of test, and location of test, and your results will be emailed to you as soon as possible.

The Community Risk Level is at Level 2 – Moderate.

Level 2 - Moderate	Moderate: 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.

New Quarantine Options Announced by CDC and DHSS;

EOC Continues to Recommend 14-Day Quarantine for Close Contacts

New quarantine options have been announced by CDC and Alaska DHSS:

The CDC and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services have published two new risk-based options that may be used to shorten the 14-day quarantine in order to reduce economic hardship and increase compliance.

The Ketchikan EOC continues to endorse the 14-day quarantine. Individuals and organizations that choose to follow the options for shortening the quarantine period must recognize that any quarantine shorter than 14 days

balances reduced burden against the possibility of spreading the virus. The following are the risk-based options announced by the CDC and DHSS:

1. You may end quarantine after 10 days without testing if you have experienced no symptoms. Continue to monitor yourself for symptoms for the full 14 days. If even minor symptoms develop, isolate yourself and get tested.
2. You may end your quarantine after 7 days, if you take a COVID-19 test 5-7 days after possible exposure and the results are negative. (You should remain in quarantine until you receive a negative result, and should remain in quarantine for the full 7 days, even if you receive a negative result before then.) Continue to monitor yourself for symptoms for the full 14 days. If even minor symptoms develop, isolate yourself and arrange for a second test.

People who are considering these alternatives should carefully weigh the options, since a reduced quarantine time increases the chance of unknowingly spreading COVID-19.

People who are considering these alternatives should carefully weigh the options, since a reduced quarantine time increases the chance of unknowingly spreading COVID-19. You may choose to practice strict social distancing after ending quarantine until the full 14 days after possible exposure.

For the full Alaska DHSS press release visit:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDHSS/bulletins/2af672a?reqfrom=share>

For current CDC quarantine recommendations visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

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 recommended best practices for travelers, to ensure community health.

- **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.

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.