



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

MEDIA RELEASE: NINE NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

Date: December 2, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

There are nine new cases of COVID-19 to report today. Six of the nine cases are symptomatic.

Three of the cases are members of the same household and sought testing due to one member experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. One household member had a recent history of travel and the other two are close contacts to the traveler. Of the three cases, two are symptomatic and one is currently asymptomatic. Public Health has completed two of the three contact investigations, and one is still ongoing.

One of the positive individuals sought testing today at a local clinic due to symptoms of COVID-19. This person is a close contact to a known positive case. Public Health has begun the contact investigation for this case, and will coordinate with the positive individual to notify anyone identified as close contacts.

Four of the cases are related to recent travel. The contact investigations for these travel cases are complete and the close contacts have been notified.

- One traveler arrived November 25th and tested negative, and after becoming symptomatic, sought a second test at the Drive-Up testing clinic on December 1st, and tested positive.
- One traveler arrived into Ketchikan on November 27th and is currently asymptomatic.
- One traveler arrived into Ketchikan on November 28th and is currently asymptomatic.
- One traveler arrived into Ketchikan on December 1st and is symptomatic.

One of the positive individuals is a member of a congregate setting and was tested through the mitigation plan of that facility. This individual is symptomatic and has been placed in isolation. The source of this case has been determined to be community spread. Public Health has completed this contact investigation and all close contacts have been notified.

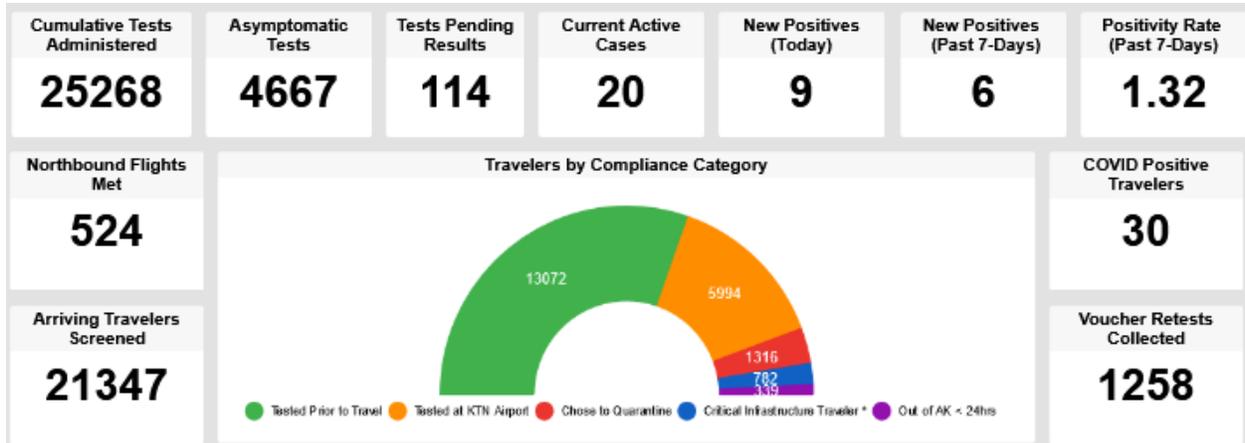
**Anyone with questions
whether you are a
close contact to a
known positive is
welcome to call Public
Health at 225-4350**

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 for 14 days. 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.

Update on Cases Pending Investigation: There were three cases pending investigation from December 1st; two of the cases were determined to be close contacts to a known positive, and one of the cases was determined to be community spread.

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

Today's cases bring the total cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 217. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **204**. Of the 204 cases, **20** are still active, and **184** have recovered.



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 November 24th. **If you tested on or before November 24th 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	<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: We have had four travel-related positive cases in the past week. At least one of these travel cases tested negative at the time of the initial travel test, and later became symptomatic and tested positive six days after arrival.

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.

- **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.

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