



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

EOC MEDIA RELEASE: THREE NEW COVID-19 CASES

Date: December 17, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

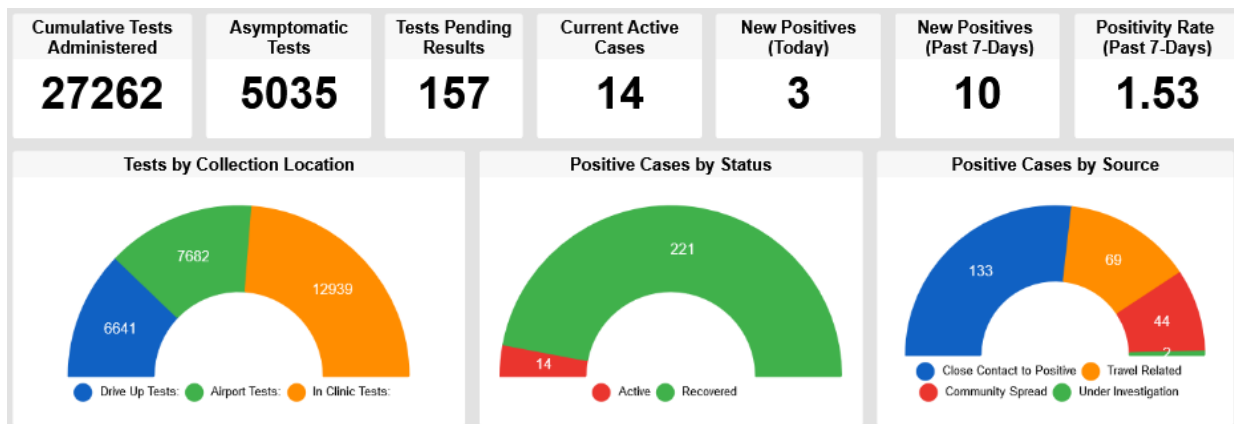
There were three new cases of COVID-19 reported in Ketchikan today

- Two individuals traveled and arrived into Ketchikan on December 16th. Both are symptomatic. One of the contact investigations is complete and the other is ongoing.
- One individual sought testing at a local clinic and is currently asymptomatic. The source and the contacts are still under investigation.

During the contact investigations, Public Health will work with the individuals who tested positive to notify anyone identified as close contacts and to 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.

Update on cases pending investigation: The pending case announced December 16th remains under investigation as to the source.

Today's cases bring the total cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 248. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **235**. Of the 235 cases, **14** are still active, and **221** have recovered.



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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Airport Traveler Test Result Update: Travelers with **POSITIVE** results will receive a phone call notifying them of the results. **NEGATIVE** results are uploaded into the Alaska Traveler Portal with an automated email to the traveler (not a phone call).

Drive-Up Test Result Update: Please refer to the dashboard at www.kgbak.us/covid19 for the most current information on Drive-Up Testing results. Only positive results will receive a phone call. The Berth 3 Drive-Up results are complete through **December 15th**. If you tested on or before December 15th and have not been contacted, your result was **NEGATIVE**.

Three Facebook Live Sessions Scheduled

The EOC will be hosting a series of Facebook Live events to respond to current questions and needs of the community.

December 18, 5:30 p.m.: Covid-19 Vaccine and Distribution

Panelists will include: Timothy Horton, MD, FAAP, FPHM, Staff Pediatrician, PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center; Theresa Ruzek, PHN IV, Ketchikan Public Health; and Abner Hoage, Ketchikan EOC Incident Commander

December 22, 5:30 p.m.: Coping During Covid: Managing Stress and Strengthening Families

Panelists will include: Samantha Funk, Mental Health Counselor, WISH; JoNell Wallace, Schoenbar Counselor, KGBSD; Jordan Tabb, LCSW, Community Connections; and Dustin Larna, CFO-COO, Residential Youth Care (RYC).

January 5, 5:30 p.m.: Coping During Covid: Building Resiliency and Strengthening Community

Panelists will include: Romanda Simpson, Executive Director, KWC; Derek Meister, Psychologist, KGBSD; and either Carolyn Eckholm, LCSW or Brittany Pope, LPC, of Ketchikan Indian Community.

Information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Alaska is available at: <http://covidvax.alaska.gov>

The Alaska Health Orders are available at www.covid19.alaska.gov.

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan, including Community Risk Level indicator data, is provided at www.kgbak.us/covid19.

