



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

MEDIA RELEASE: COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL REDUCED TO LOW

Date: January 20, 2021
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 2 through the winter holidays. Your hard work has paid off and we are now able to lower the Community Risk Level.

Community Risk Level is Reduced to Level 1 - Low

Ketchikan has had no new positive COVID-19 cases since January 14th. In the past seven days, there have been two (2) positive cases, both of which were determined to be close contacts to a known positive case. The positivity rate (percentage of positive tests conducted) is currently at 0.88%.

Based on these statistics the EOC has lowered the Community Risk Level to Level 1 – Low.

Community Risk	Recommended General Mitigation Measures*
Level 1 - Low	<p>Minimum: Can travel outside home with safety measures** Schools: Staff 100%, Students 100% with safety measures*** Indoor and Outdoor mass gatherings with safety measures** gatherings >500 people requires coordination with and plan submitted to EOC in advance Businesses open with safety measures** Healthcare services with safety measures** Minimal safe visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with safety measures**</p>

Under Level 1-Low, the following health and safety precautions are recommended:

- Public Health Social Measures: Recommend masks in specific settings where social distancing cannot be maintained;
- Schools: Schools open 100% with annex sites and safety measures.
- Businesses and Offices: Recommend following all public health safety measures outlined in the Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan. Recommend allowance of telework for employees that are, live with, or care for high-risk population.
- Bars, Restaurants, Personal Services, Gyms: Follow all public health safety measures in the Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan.
- 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.



The Covid-19 Vaccine is Available in Alaska

The EOC encourages individuals to research the Covid-19 vaccine, talk with your doctor, and decide if it is the best choice for you. Whether you choose to get the vaccine or not, please continue to follow safety guidelines to help keep our community safe.

- Avoid the 3 C's: closed spaces, crowded places, and close contact situations.
- Do the 3 W's: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your space.
- Stay home if you feel sick and get tested if you have any symptoms.

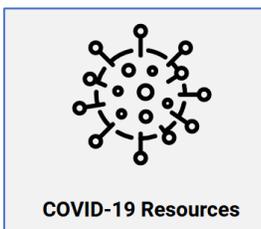
Alaskans age 65 and older can now schedule appointments for the COVID-19 Vaccine by:

- Go to <http://covidvax.alaska.gov> to schedule your appointment. If there are none available, check back the next day.
- Call 1-907-646-3322 for assistance with scheduling an appointment. Leave a message and someone will return your call.
- Email questions to: covid19vaccine@alaska.gov

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 1 and not increase to Level 2, Ketchikan residents need to be diligent in following all of the recommendations for health and safety precautions. 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 keep our risk level low.



COVID-19 Resources

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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