



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

EOC COVID-19 MEDIA RELEASE: RISK LEVEL INCREASED TO LEVEL 3 - HIGH

Date: February 4, 2021
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

We have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases in the past couple of weeks, and a concerning increase in community spread cases. A pending case from February 1st has been determined to be community spread, which makes Seven (7) community spread cases in the past week. With the increase in overall cases, the positivity rate (percent of positive cases compared to the amount of tests issued) is now over 2 percent. Two of the risk indicators are now in the Level 3 – High category. Because of this, the EOC is increasing the Community Risk Level to Level 3 – High.

Community Risk Level 3 - High

Level 3 - High	<p>Significant: Limit non-essential travel outside home Schools: Open 50% with annex sites and safety measures*** Indoor: Limited small <20 mass gatherings with safety precautions (funeral, wedding, etc.) Outdoor: Limited small <30 gatherings with safety precautions Businesses limited openings with safety measures** Modified healthcare services (e.g. telemedicine, essential care, chronic care) No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with expanded safety measures (e.g. low risk) **</p>
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The following mitigation measures are strongly recommended during Risk Level 3 – High:

- Strongly recommend masks and social distancing be practiced in communal settings and public locations with 5 or more people. If six-foot distancing is not possible, then masks should be worn.
- Strongly recommend businesses encourage telework to the maximum extent possible.
- For employees who cannot telework, we strongly recommend that the business reduce capacity to ensure physical distancing can be maintained not to exceed 50% capacity; close shared spaces such as break rooms, kitchens, etc.
- Strongly recommend bars closed, restaurants reduce capacity to 50% and ensure physical distancing with reservations required. Delivery or curbside pick encouraged.
- Personal services (nail and hair salons, massages, etc.) appointments only with one customer per each service provider. No waiting areas.
- Gyms-no group activities and limit capacity to 25%.
- Indoor gatherings limited to fewer than 20 individuals.
- Outdoor gatherings limited to fewer than 30 individuals.
- Modified Healthcare services (telemedicine, essential care, chronic care)
- Stop non-essential visits to Pioneer Home, Jail, Youth Center, WISH.



How does this affect the School District?

Superintendent Lougee has scheduled an emergency School Board meeting today at 12:00 pm in the Kayhi Library to obtain approval from the Board for a change in the Smart Start level from low to medium, based on the change in the community's risk level. Details will follow from the District, but the proposal is as follows: no change to Elementary schools and KCS middle school, as measures have already been in place for limited class sizes and other health and safety measures. The change would take the secondary schools (Schoenbar, Revilla, Kayhi) to the 50% blended learning option. More information on the School District Smart Start plan can be found at <https://www.kgbsd.org/> after the emergency School Board meeting today, and individual school principals will send out updated information via messenger.



City of Ketchikan and KPU Changes:

All City of Ketchikan and KPU facilities will be closed to the public effective 8 am Thursday, February 4, but services will still be available via phone and email. Visit www.ktn-ak.us for services and information.

- All public meetings including the February 4 City Council meeting will be held electronically. Contact the City Clerk's office at 228-5658. City Council meetings can be viewed on KPUtv Channel 611 and are livestreamed on the City of Ketchikan Facebook page.
- KPU Customer Service can be reached at 228-5474, or cserv@ktn-ak.us; a table in the Plaza Mall is available for forms, and payment drop boxes can be found in the ATM area of the Plaza Mall, at A&P Grocery and at the City Hall back door near the Council Chamber entrance.
- City Hall switchboard can be reached at 225-3111, drop boxes for payment are located at the City Hall back door, near the Council Chamber entrance.
- Ketchikan Emergency Service including Police and Fire will continue to operate at full capacity.



The City of Saxman Changes:

The City of Saxman facilities have implemented the following measures:

- Saxman City Hall is closed to the public with staff in rotating shifts.
- Citizens are encouraged to conduct business over the phone by calling 225-4166.



Ketchikan Gateway Borough Changes:

The **White Cliff Building** will remain open to the public, with the following measures in place:

- All public meetings will be held electronically.
- Masks required for the public and staff.
- Citizens are encouraged to conduct business over the phone or internet. Visit www.kgbak.us for services.

The **Gateway Recreation Center** will implement the following Level 3 measures at 3 p.m. today:

- Gymnasiums, racquetball courts, and sauna will be closed.
- Open swims, swim lessons, group activities, league sports, spectators will be cancelled.
- No loitering will be allowed.
- The following activities would be limited to 25 percent capacity: track, weight room, cardio room, children's room, lap swim (one individual per lane).

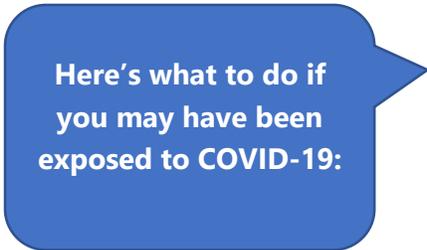
The Borough Transit Bus Program will be adjusted as follows during Level 3:

- Bus capacity will be limited to 10-15 riders at one time. That is 10 individuals or up to 15 if people riding together (such as couples or parents with children or individuals that share a household). If a bus has 10-15 riders, it will not pick up additional passengers until someone exits. Consider taking an earlier bus to ensure you will make it to work on time. Avoid peak travel times 7 to 8 a.m., 11:30 am to 12:30 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.
- Paratransit capacity will be limited to 3 riders at one time.
- With these capacity limits, riders should only use public transit for essential trips, such as healthcare, appointments, employment, grocery shopping.
- Social distancing shall be maintained while waiting to board the bus and while on-board the bus.

The Pat Wise Animal Shelter:

- Volunteer program suspended.
- All members of the public will be required to wear a mask. One individual or a group of no more than two will be allowed at any one time.

Here's what to do if you may have been exposed to COVID-19:



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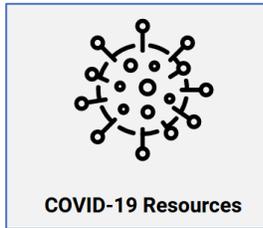
Ketchikan Public Health and the EOC strongly recommend that you do the following:

- Self-quarantine for a period of 14 days since your last exposure.
- If you are asymptomatic, you can reduce the quarantine period in item 1 by:
 - a. Getting tested for COVID-19 on day 6 or 7 after your last exposure, and self-quarantine until you receive a negative result.
 - b. If you receive a negative result and continue to be asymptomatic you can resume normal activities on day 8.
 - c. If your result is positive, continue to isolate and follow the advice of Public Health.
- If at any time you become symptomatic you should seek testing for COVID-19 immediately:
 - a. If you receive a negative result continue to quarantine for at least 14 days and until you are fever free for 72 hours without the use of medication.
 - b. If you receive a positive test continue to isolate and follow advice of Public Health
- If you need guidance or have questions about self-quarantine, isolation, or when to test; call Public Health at 225-4350.

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 reduce the risk level, we need to be diligent in following 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 reduce the risk level.



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

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

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.

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