



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

**EOC COVID-19 MEDIA RELEASE:
SEVEN NEW CASES | INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXPOSED INDIVIDUALS**

Date: April 27, 2021
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

This release is provided in response to the large number of positive COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours. There are seven new cases of COVID-19 reported in Ketchikan. Two were reported yesterday after the Dashboard was updated. Five of the cases were announced by the School District earlier today. Please see the attached School District release for additional information.

- Three of the cases were determined to be close contacts to known positive cases.
- Four of the cases remain under investigation as to the source.

During the contact investigations, Public Health will coordinate with the positive person to reach out to anyone who may be a close contact and instruct them to quarantine. In the event of a positive case associated with the School District, Public Health will coordinate with the School District nursing and coaching staff to reach out to anyone who may be identified as a potential close contact.

Public Health and the EOC recommend that anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 follow these recommendations*:

1. Self-quarantine for a period of 10 days since your last exposure.
2. 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.
3. 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 10 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
4. If you need guidance or have questions about self-quarantine, isolation, or when to test; call Public Health at 225-4350.

****EOC Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated Individuals are posted at www.kgbak.us/covid19***

The Berth 3 Drive-Up Testing Clinic is available for free testing for anyone who is symptomatic, believes they may be a close contact to a known positive, or may have recently been exposed to COVID-19. The hours of the Berth 3 Drive-Up Clinic are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. AND 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits the Community: The vaccine protects against COVID-19 disease and is one of the most important tools to end the pandemic. The vaccine is now available for anyone living or working in Alaska who is age 16 or older. Ketchikan’s vaccination rate is currently at 45 percent for the general population. With additional people becoming vaccinated and protected from the virus, the health risk to the community as a whole will decrease. The EOC recommends all citizens research the vaccine and determine if the vaccine is right for you. Additional information on the vaccine is available at <http://covidvax.alaska.gov>

The Community Risk Level is 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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The Ketchikan EOC COVID-19 Dashboard has been updated with case data showing details for positive cases. To see the daily case data, go to www.kgbak.us/covid19, scroll down to underneath the case graphs, and click on the link that reads “Risk – Positive Details by Day.” The link will take you to a spreadsheet showing the date, source, and status of recent cases.

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan, including additional data regarding Ketchikan’s community risk, mitigation measures, Berth 3 drive-up testing, airport traveler testing, and local vaccination data, is provided at www.kgbak.us/covid19. The Alaska Health Advisories are available at www.covid19.alaska.gov.

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