



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

EOC COVID-19 UPDATE: Twenty-One New Cases

Date: May 13, 2021
 From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

Unfortunately, Ketchikan set three new records today since the beginning of the pandemic: 20 cases in a single day; 13 community spread cases in the past seven days; and a record high 5.24% positivity rate.

We need everyone’s help to flatten the curve of COVID-19 transmission in Ketchikan, and stop the spread of this dangerous virus in our community.

There are 21 new cases of COVID-19 since our last update: one was reported last night after the media release, and 20 were reported today. Of the 21, one case was related to recent travel; eight of the cases were determined to be close contacts to a known positive, and 12 are under investigation. Of the cases pending from May 12th, six were determined to be community spread, three were determined to be close contacts to known positives, and two remain under investigation.

Public Health and School District Nursing Staff will work with the positive cases to identify close contacts, and will reach out to anyone identified as a close contact and instruct them to quarantine and seek testing as appropriate.

Hospitalization Update: There is currently one person admitted in the COVID-19 unit at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center.

The total cumulative case count, including travelers, is 574. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 553. Of the 553 cases, there are **102** active, **2** deceased, and **449** recovered.

The Community Risk Level is Level 4 – Very High

Level 4 - Very High	Extreme: Stop non-essential travel outside home (unless vaccinated) Schools: Reference KGBSD Plans/Policies*** No gatherings >20 people Essential services only Modified healthcare services No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation locally with safety measures** (e.g. walking)
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CDC Updates Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

Today the CDC updated its recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals. The EOC will be evaluating and updating our recommendations soon, but we are currently focusing our effort on containing the current outbreak in Ketchikan.

We are seeing a consistently elevated number of new positive cases on a daily basis, and this is concerning. The high number of cases, along with the continued increase of community spread of the virus, places additional demands on our Public Health Department.

We continue to encourage our community to make risk-based decisions based on the best guidance and information available, including CDC guidance. Organizations should develop operating plans with mitigation factors based on their business requirements, the community's risk level, and the vaccination status of the population being served by the organization.

As more individuals in the community are vaccinated, the overall health of the community improves. Each organization, business, and government entity may implement additional guidelines or more stringent requirements as needed in order to continue serving all members of the community.

For unvaccinated individuals and those at highest risk of negative outcomes, the EOC recommends the following mitigation measures to keep our families and neighbors safe:

- If you have even minor symptoms, stay home!
- Travel outside the home only for essential purposes.
- Refrain from gathering in large groups, especially with multiple households.
- Avoid in-person visits with people in congregate settings; instead, keep in touch by phone or video chat.
- When you do go out, wear a mask over your nose and mouth, keep a 6-foot distance from others, and wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

Kayhi Vaccination Clinic for ages 12 and Up

With the FDA authorization and CDC approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12-15, there will be a free Pfizer vaccine clinic for anyone age 12 and older on Saturday, May 15th and Sunday, May 16th at Kayhi from 10am-2pm.



To reserve your appointment time:

- Go to <https://www.covidsecureapp.com/capstonevax.html>
- Scroll to "Ketchikan High School" and select your preferred date.
- If you are a parent of a child seeking vaccination, enter your child's information.

- If you have more than 1 child getting a vaccine, you will need to sign up each child individually.

Those age 12-17 must have a parent or guardian present at the appointment. Drive-up COVID-19 testing will also be available at this clinic.

Drive Up Testing Clinic Has Expanded Days of Service and Laboratory Processing Hours for Faster Turnaround Results

Creekside Clinic has expanded its laboratory processing hours to accommodate the higher demand for COVID-19 testing and provide quicker turnaround times for test results.

All drive-up tests have been processed and are current through Wednesday, May 12th. Individuals with a positive result have been notified. If you were tested at the drive-up clinic on or before May 12th, and did not receive a phone call, your test was negative.



The Berth 3 Drive-Up Testing Clinic is available every day this week, including Sunday and Monday, 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 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. AND 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For additional vaccine information or to see a list of local providers go to: www.kgbak.us/covidvax. Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan, including additional case data, local vaccination data, Ketchikan's community risk, Berth 3 drive-up testing, and airport traveler testing, is provided at www.kgbak.us/covid19. General Information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Alaska is provided at <http://covidvax.alaska.gov>.

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