



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

EOC COVID-19 UPDATE: Ten New Cases

Date: May 24, 2021
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

There are ten new cases of COVID-19 reported since our last update. There were four new cases on Saturday, May 22, and six cases reported today. Of the ten total, two were determined to be close contacts to known positive cases, two were determined to be community spread, and six of the cases 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 are currently **THREE (3)** individuals admitted in the COVID-19 unit at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center (PHKMC).

The following statement was issued by PHKMC on May 22:

PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center has capacity in both its COVID-19 unit and general hospital beds and is continuing to receive patients from other communities. The increase in COVID-19 cases has prompted a change to the visitation policy, limiting visitors for admitted patients but not ability to receive patients into the facility.

The total cumulative case count, including travelers, is **649**. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **628**. Of the 628 cases, there are **58** active, **2** deceased, and **568** recovered.

Community Risk Level 4 – Very High Recommendations for unvaccinated individuals:

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)

CDC Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated Individuals are available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>



Borough Facilities Reopening Effective May 25:

The Borough has revised mitigation plans for its facilities in accordance with the most recent CDC recommendations, and will be reopening facilities beginning May 25 at 8:00 a.m. Staff and the public are asked to follow the

CDC guidelines found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

- **Recreation Center** - The protocols at the Recreation Center include 50 percent capacity of the weight and cardio rooms and a limit of three in the sauna. Sports teams will follow their mitigation plans.
- **Transit Buses**
 - Transit and Paratransit will be operating at full capacity;
 - Bus fare will be required. May Monthly Unlimited bus passes (paper pass) will be accepted thru June 30, 2021. If a rider activated a Monthly Unlimited bus pass before May 12, 2021 thru Token Transit please contact the Transit Office for assistance at (907) 225-8726 between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday -Friday;
 - Face masks are required per the CDC Face Mask Order for public transportation;
 - If a rider is sick or asked to quarantine or is positive for COVID-19, please do not ride the bus.
- **Pat Wise Animal Shelter** – All department services will be fully operational. Volunteers and visitors will be required to wear a mask.
- **White Cliff Building** – Open to the public with online and phone services recommended. Public meetings will resume in-person format with social distancing and mitigation protocols beginning June 1st.

For 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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