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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | TWO NEW CASES IN KETCHIKAN

Date: March 24, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release
We have received information from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that there have been two (2) new positive test results for COVID-19 in Ketchikan. This brings the total of positive cases in Ketchikan to eight (8).

These two individuals, upon experiencing symptoms of illness, self-quarantined and sought testing through the Creekside Family Medical Clinic. The testing was processed by a private lab. The two individuals do not have a history of recent travel.

Ketchikan Public Health officials have contacted these individuals and will continue to monitor their condition to ensure continued self-isolation. Public Health officials will initiate a contact investigation and reach out to any person who may have come into contact with these individuals. Public Health will notify and isolate additional persons as appropriate. Through the contact investigation, Public Health will direct testing of persons that meet criteria based on contact with any confirmed case of COVID-19. Individuals who meet the criteria are being tested in accordance with CDC and State of Alaska priorities.

We have seen exponential spread of COVID-19 in Ketchikan this week because it is so highly contagious. **All Ketchikan residents must take this virus seriously and take actions to help stop the spread now.** At the current rate of spread, Ketchikan could have over 400 positive cases of COVID-19 by the end of next week. If we all do our part, we can reduce that number dramatically and contain the spread.

In keeping with the emergency mayoral proclamation issued on March 21st by the mayors of the City of Ketchikan, City of Saxman, and Ketchikan Gateway Borough, citizens are strongly urged to **hunker down, shelter in place, and stay home, in order to contain the spread of COVID-19**. Follow all health mandates issued by Governor Dunleavy, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus, take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community. If

you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, **call your healthcare provider for medical advice**.

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.coronavirus.alaska.gov. EOC information and the response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Ketchikan is updated daily on the COVID-19 Response page at https://www.kgbak.us/913/COVID-19-Response.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity
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