



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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC UPDATES

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For Immediate Release

This brief responds to media questions and provides an update on information from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and its partner agencies.

COVID-19 Case Count Update

The number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan is fourteen (14). Of these cases, two (2) individuals had a recent history of travel, and eleven (11) individuals were identified as having been in close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Category					
	Travel-Related	Non-Travel Related	Close Contact to Positive Case	Travel/Contact Under Investigation	Total Cases
Total by category	2	1	11	0	14

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Count by Date	
Date	# Cases
3/17/2020	1
3/19/2020	1
3/20/2020	1
3/21/2020	3
3/24/2020	3
3/25/2020	2
3/26/2020	1
3/28/2020	1
4/1/2020	1
Total	14

Ketchikan COVID-19 Case Recovery Information
10 out of 14 have recovered and are no longer being monitored by Public Health.
Criteria for release from monitoring/quarantine:
* At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
* At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

COVID-19 Testing Update

137 tests have been conducted for COVID-19 in Ketchikan, with the following results:

Tests Conducted	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Results
137	14	75	48

Ketchikan Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Inventory

The EOC is keeping an inventory of PPE available at the various health clinics, fire departments, and the EOC storage facility. Ketchikan currently has the following equipment available, with additional equipment on order:

Current Inventory	Quantity
N95 Masks (ea)	107
Surgical Masks (bx 50)	2777.5
Masks with Face Shields (bx 25)	1175
Hoods (ea)	0
Goggles (ea)	56
Exam Gloves (bx 100)	127
Gowns (bx 15)	82
PAPRs	
Hand Sanitizer (4oz bottle)	1929
Alcohol Prep Pads (ea)	1400
Sanitation Wipes (containers)	314

Compliance to Social Distancing Directives

We have received questions regarding consequences to members of the public who fail to follow the social distancing mandates and directives that have been put into place by the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Alaska, and the local Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City of Ketchikan, and City of Saxman authorities.

While the State of Alaska does have the ability to enforce violations of any of the mandates issued, the State and local governments are fully expecting compliance from our citizens. It is our hope that citizens will respect the directives for social distancing for the health and well-being of all and to #flattenthecurve and #stopthespread.

If there are violations of mandates and social distancing directives, the greatest penalty would be a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 to an extent that our local healthcare providers could not accommodate. Again, we are hopeful that are citizens will comply with the mandates for social distancing so that does not occur. It is our hope that law

enforcement officers will not have to issue citations to citizens for failing to follow directives. If they do have to do so, it would be in line with reckless endangerment statutes.

If a citizen would like to report a concern for a violation of a mandate, those concerns can be emailed to investigations@alaska.gov.

Ketchikan International Airport Travel Updates

Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the high incidence of travel-related infection, the State of Alaska has instituted a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all passengers arriving from out of state. In accordance with the State mandate, accommodations have been made at the airport for travel declaration forms to be provided. The forms are also available at <https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/COVID-19-Health-Mandate-010-Travel-Declaration.pdf>.

Services and Provisions for Businesses

Many local businesses are currently looking for resources to help them survive the COVID-19 pandemic. To assist, the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce has developed a resource page at www.ketchikanchamber.com/covid-19-updates, with contributions from the Ketchikan Visitor's Bureau and Ketchikan Wellness Coalition. Please visit this site for resources for your business, local business information and hours, and updates on legislation. The page is being updated frequently as new information becomes available.

Additionally, our local Congressional Delegation Office has created a handy guide for small business owners on the federal SBA disaster funding: *The Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act*. The guide is available on the local COVID-19 Response webpage at: <https://www.kgbak.us/913/COVID-19-Response>.

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has updated its guidance on how the emergency paid leave provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (package 2) should be implemented. Guidance is available at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>.

30 Days to Slow the Spread – Excerpts from the White House Guideline

- Listen to and follow the directions of your STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
- IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home.
- IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

- IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.
- IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

EOC Information

The Ketchikan EOC Unified Command Objectives for response to the COVID-19 Emergency are:

- Safeguard the health and safety of personnel and the public
- Slow/stop the spread of COVID-19
- Increase COVID-19 testing capacity
- Care for the sick
- Provide public information
- Mitigate community/economic impact

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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