



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

MEDIA RELEASE: TWO NEW POSITIVE CASES AT SEAFOOD PROCESSING PLANTS

Date: June 22, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

Two (2) new positive test results for COVID-19 have been identified through the COVID-19 testing programs at two separate local seafood processing plants. Both positive results were identified through the mitigation plans for the respective companies. Both individuals have cooperated fully with the mitigation plans and have followed all on-site protocols.

The first individual has been tested twice since arrival in Ketchikan, in accordance with the company mitigation plan. This person was first tested on June 15th with a negative result, and was tested again today with a positive result. This individual is currently asymptomatic.

The second individual arrived in Ketchikan on June 20th, and, in following the company mitigation plan, has been self-quarantined, and has participated in twice daily monitoring by a medical provider. This individual became symptomatic today, was tested for COVID-19, and received a positive test result.

Both individuals have been contacted by health care providers with notification of the positive result, have been placed in isolation, and are being monitored by healthcare providers.

Public Health officials have been notified and will begin the contact investigation today and reach out to any person who may have come into contact with these individuals. Public Health will notify and quarantine 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.

Both of these seafood processing plants have a COVID-19 mitigation plan in place and are actively maintaining and operating under the plan. The purpose of the plans is to detect the presence of COVID-19 at an early stage and mitigate the risk to other employees and individuals. This has been done through the systematic testing and isolation of the affected individuals.

These cases bring the cumulative COVID-19 case count, including travelers, to 27. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 23. Of the 23 cases, 18 have recovered.

Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan is available at www.kgbak.us/COVID-19-Response. Information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.covid19.alaska.gov.

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