



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

MEDIA RELEASE: NO NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

Date: November 20, 2020;
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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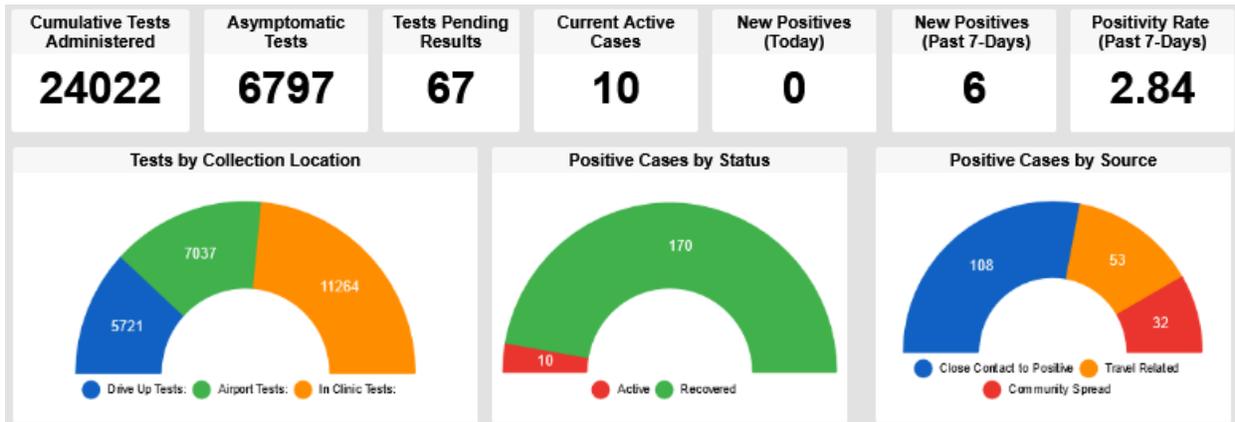
For Immediate Release

There were no new cases of Covid-19 reported in Ketchikan today.

The cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, remains at 193. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is **180**. Of the 180 cases, **10** are still active, and **170** have recovered.

Hospitalization Update: We received no reports of any individuals hospitalized today in the PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center (PKMC) Covid-19 unit.

Update on cases pending investigation: There were no cases pending investigation.



Drive-Up Test Result Update: Tests conducted November 17 through the morning of November 19 were sent to the Quest laboratory in Seattle. Results for those tests are expected to be received by November 23. All individuals tested on those days will receive a phone call regardless of results because of the longer turnaround time for tests sent to the Quest lab. Tests conducted the afternoon of November 19 going forward will be processed locally with an expected 24 to 48-hour turnaround time for results.

The Drive-Up test results are complete through Saturday, November 14th. If you tested on or before November 14th at the drive-up site, and have not been contacted, your result was negative. Individuals tested on or before November 14th received a phone call only if their result was positive. If you require a copy of your drive-up test results, please send an email to info@creeksidehealth.com and include: your full name, date of birth, date of test, and location of test. Your results will be emailed to you as soon as possible.

The Drive-Up Testing Clinic will be CLOSED on Thursday, November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday. It will reopen on Friday, November 27: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Our Community Risk Level remains at Level 3 – High.

On November 12th, Governor Dunleavy urged all Alaska communities to follow strict mitigation measures through the following three weeks, taking us through the Thanksgiving holiday. Similarly, the CDC has issued guidance for strict social distancing and limitations on gatherings for the holiday. The majority of the State of Alaska remains in the High Risk Alert level with a high positivity rate and case count. In addition, we expect to see an increase in travelers coming to Ketchikan for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

After reviewing our current local risk indicators, carefully considering the information above, and discussing it with the EOC Policy Group, the Unified Command has decided to keep the Community Risk at Level 3 – High Risk through Monday, November 30th at which point we will reassess the current situation.

Level 3 - High	Significant: Limit non-essential travel outside home Schools: Open 50% with annex sites and safety measures*** Indoor: Limited small <20 mass gatherings with safety precautions (funeral, wedding, etc.) Outdoor: Limited small <30 gatherings with safety precautions Businesses limited openings with safety measures** Modified healthcare services (e.g. telemedicine, essential care, chronic care) No non-essential visits to congregate facilities (e.g. nursing homes) Recreation with expanded safety measures (e.g. low risk) **
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We continue to urge all citizens to follow the recommended mitigation measures so we can continue to realize a downward trend in positive cases. Please take the extra precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones. While most people who get this virus are able to recover with few symptoms or long-term effects, there are many who are hit hard by Covid-19 and become very ill. It is for these most vulnerable members of our community that we need to stay diligent.

Risk Level 3 Recommended Mitigation Measures:

- Strongly recommend masks and social distancing be practiced in communal settings and public locations with 5 or more people. If six-foot distancing is not possible, then masks should be worn.
- **In light of the Governor’s November 12th announcement, we are strongly recommending that any Ketchikan businesses, organizations, and local governments that can operate remotely are urged to send their employees home as soon as possible.** We strongly recommend businesses encourage telework to the maximum extent possible.
- For employees who cannot telework, we strongly recommend that the business reduce capacity to ensure physical distancing can be maintained not to exceed 50% capacity; close shared spaces such as break rooms, kitchens, etc.
- Strongly recommend bars closed, restaurants reduce capacity to 50% and ensure physical distancing with reservations required. Delivery or curbside pick encouraged.
- Personal services (nail and hair salons, massages, etc.) appointments only with one customer per each service provider. No waiting areas.
- Gyms-no group activities and limit capacity to 25%.
- Indoor gatherings limited to fewer than 20 individuals.
- Outdoor gatherings limited to fewer than 30 individuals.
- Modified Healthcare services (telemedicine, essential care, chronic care)
- Stop non-essential visits to Pioneer Home, Jail, Youth Center, WISH.

For additional information on the Community Risk Level Matrix, please visit: <http://www.bit.ly/ktn-covid19-risk>. Current information on the response to COVID-19 in Ketchikan is provided at www.kgbak.us/covid19. Information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at www.covid19.alaska.gov.