



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

MEDIA RELEASE: TEN NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

Date: November 9, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-2464

For Immediate Release

There are ten (10) new Covid-19 cases in Ketchikan. Seven of the 10 cases were identified through tests conducted at the drive-up testing site on Saturday November 7, and all seven are symptomatic. Of these seven cases, four were determined to be close contact to a known positive case, one was travel related, one was determined to be community spread, and one case is still under investigation.

Three of the 10 cases were identified through local clinics today. Two of these individuals sought testing related to experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. One individual is asymptomatic and sought testing as part of their employer-required testing program. All three of these cases are still under investigation as to the source.

There were no new hospitalizations reported today, and two of the previous four hospitalized individuals have been discharged. Two individuals remain hospitalized.

The newly identified positives have been notified of the positive test results, have been directed to isolate, and are being monitored by healthcare providers. Public Health has begun the contact investigations and will be coordinating with the individuals who tested positive to reach out to the individuals identified as close contacts to the positive cases and advise them to quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts will receive a phone call either from Public Health or from the individual who tested positive.

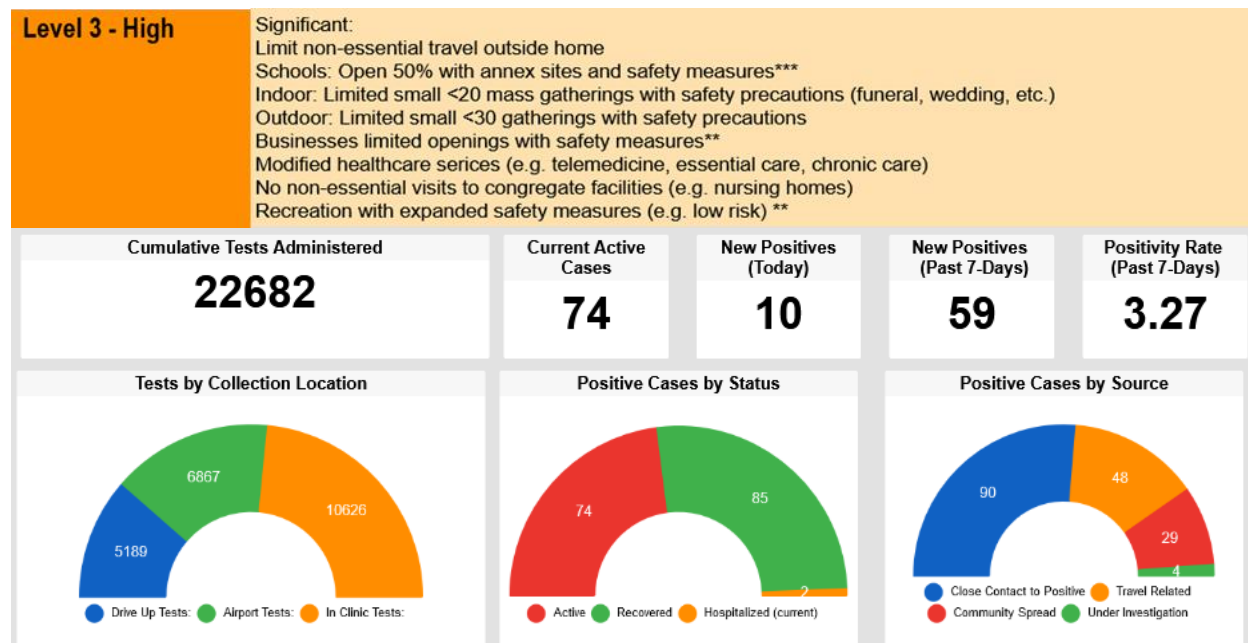
Today's cases bring the cumulative Covid-19 case count, including travelers, to 171. The number of positive cases of individuals residing or staying in Ketchikan is 159. Of the 159 cases, 74 are still active, and 85 have recovered.

Seven of the cases reported today were tested on Saturday, November 7 and will be attributed to the case count for November 7, bringing that daily total to 19. We are optimistic that our community cases potentially peaked over the weekend and that we will begin to see a decline of cases. We will be watching these cases closely over the next couple of days to reassess the need to increase the risk level. We implore the community to double down on efforts to follow the mitigation recommendations listed below so we can avoid the need to move to Risk Level 4 - Very High.

Drive-Up Testing Update: All of the tests conducted at the drive-up testing site through Saturday, November 7, have been processed, and all of the positive cases have been notified of their test results. **If you tested at the drive-up testing site on or before Saturday November 7th and have not been contacted, you can assume your test was negative.** You will still receive a phone call with the negative test results; however, based on the increased number of tests recently, it is taking longer for those follow-up phone calls to be completed. **It is important to remember that if you sought**

testing because you are a close contact to a positive case, you need to continue to quarantine for the full 14 days.

Ketchikan’s Community Risk Level remains at Level 3 – High. We continue to urge all citizens to follow the recommended mitigation measures so we can realize a downward trend in positive cases.



Risk Level 3 Recommended Mitigation Measures:

- Strongly recommend masks and social distancing be enforced in communal settings and public locations with 5 or more people. If six-foot distancing is not possible, then mask should be worn.
- Strongly recommend businesses encourage telework to the maximum extent possible, 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.