



**PETERSBURG BOROUGH & PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER UNIFIED COMMAND**



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | COMMUNITY SPREAD ALERT

Date: February 20, 2021 6:20 pm
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Karl Hagerman, Petersburg Borough EOC Incident Commander
Phil Hofstetter, Petersburg Medical Center Incident Commander

For Immediate Release

The EOC and Petersburg Medical Center are responding to a number of new cases of COVID-19 that have been identified over the last two days. **There were two new local cases reported yesterday and there are three confirmed positive cases so far today.** As the Medical Center continues to test and determine the extent of the outbreak, the EOC is alerting the community to the issue. Today's cases are being attributed predominantly to **community spread**. The virus is present in Petersburg and poor compliance with mitigation and safety protocols may be contributing to the spread and affecting citizens to a greater degree than we've seen previously.

Community spread of the virus is serious and should cause all Petersburg citizens to be vigilant on personal protective measures. Wearing face coverings when around others from outside of your household, washing hands regularly, using hand sanitizer, maintaining 6' social distancing from others, avoiding crowded areas and not entering businesses or other people's homes if symptomatic are extremely important to preventing community spread of the virus.

Until the full extent of this outbreak is known, public gatherings should be canceled, postponed, or, at a minimum, strictly mitigated with a strong presence of masking, distancing and limiting time around others. The EOC is reserving a decision on an elevation of the local risk level until more is known about the outbreak, but we are strongly encouraging all Petersburg citizens to stick close to home, wear face coverings if around others and do your part to stop the spread of the virus.

If you are identified as a close contact to a known positive COVID-19 case, please follow all medical direction for quarantine and testing. This is extremely important to stopping the spread.

All residents must take action to mitigate the potential spread of this virus. If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, you should take steps to 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 a cough or difficulty breathing, call the Petersburg Medical Center COVID Hotline at 907-772-5788 for medical advice. Do not go to the hospital or clinic before calling the hotline.

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COVID HOTLINE 907-772-5788



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For detailed information on COVID in Petersburg, including a link to the [Petersburg COVID Dashboard](https://www.psgcovidinfo.net/), visit <https://www.psgcovidinfo.net/>

Please refer to the CDC webpage for information on symptoms and precautionary measures at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/.

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at coronavirus.alaska.gov.

PETERSBURG COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL **LOW**

 Face covering where social distancing can not be maintained	 6 feet must be maintained with people outside of the household	 Follow State Health Orders for travel & local intrastate travel mandate	 Gatherings of 50+ outdoors 25+ indoors not recommended without strict adherence to safety measures	 Businesses 100% open with allowance of telework for high-risk employees
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