PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | ONE POSITIVE CASE IDENTIFIED

Date: November 20, 2020   **4:10 pm**
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Karl Hagerman, Petersburg Borough EOC Incident Commander
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CORRECTION: The press release below issued Friday November 20 stated that "This person is a close contact of the positive case identified on the afternoon of November 16th." The correct date is November 14. We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

For Immediate Release

One new case of COVID-19 has been identified in Petersburg.

This person is an Alaskan resident that recently came to Petersburg via intrastate travel as part of a group. This person is a close contact of the positive case identified on the afternoon of November 16th. The person is isolating with other members of the travel group in a congregate setting and all members of the group have been monitoring themselves for symptoms. The Alaska Department of Epidemiology has undertaken a contact investigation and all close contacts are known.   The risk to Petersburg is very low in relation to today's case of COVID-19.

 It is important to note that the total number of days in a group quarantine situation may be lengthened as a result of congregate isolation. As members of the group develop symptoms and test positive, other members that are asymptomatic restart their 14-day quarantine period. Quarantining in a singular setting, and away from others, is recommended in these types of situations. **If traveling, think about and plan for isolation and quarantine locations if you contract the virus on your trip.**

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.

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 fever, 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.

If you are not sick, please continue to take precautionary measures to stay healthy:
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, or cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean frequently-touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) using a regular household detergent and water.
- Wear a mask when out in public when you cannot ensure six feet of social distancing as this could minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- Continue to socially distance. This means protecting you and your household members from getting sick. Avoid breaking your home bubble of protection.
- Monitor your health and that of your household members and call the COVID hotline with any questions.

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