



PETERSBURG COVID-19

ALERT LEVEL

ALL CLEAR 1 LOW **2 MODERATE** 3 HIGH

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL ELEVATED TO ORANGE

Date: February 21, 2021 5:00 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

Due to an increase in new cases of COVID-19 in the community, the determination that the community is experiencing community spread and that there are currently two local COVID-19 hospitalizations, the EOC is elevating the local risk level to ORANGE – Moderate Risk.

The PMC has elevated their internal risk level to RED, while the Petersburg School District remains in GREEN status for the time being.

Seven New Positive Cases This Weekend

Seven new positive COVID-19 cases have been identified in Petersburg this weekend. The cases being reported today are a combination of cases discovered Saturday, February 20th and Sunday, February 21st.

Three new cases were reported on February 20th as a result of symptomatic and close contact testing. Community spread has been noted as the origin of these cases. Four new cases have been identified on February 21st.

Two cases are severe enough to require hospitalizations and all other positive cases have been directed to isolate in their homes by medical providers. Public Health continues to perform contact tracing efforts in order to identify all persons who may have had exposure to a known positive.



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EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER UNIFIED COMMAND**



The EOC would like to extend good wishes to all infected citizens and our hope for a quick recovery.

Ongoing community spread of the virus should cause all Petersburg citizens to maintain vigilance 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.

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.

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 of the coronavirus.

Per the approved Risk Communication Plan, the community is encouraged to follow the recommendations of the Risk Communication Plan for Level 2 – ORANGE. Detailed guidance can be found through the Community Risk Communication Plan link on the COVID-19 Dashboard. In general, Level 2 recommendations include:

- Adherence to local Mandate #8 in regard to wearing face coverings, especially in public locations when in the company of others.
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance between yourself and people outside of your household.
- Limiting gatherings to up to 50 people if outside and 25 people inside, with high regard for face coverings, social distancing and hygiene.
- Adherence to all recommended State and Local traveler testing protocols – including follow up second tests with a State Testing Voucher.
- Encouraging staggered staffing for essential businesses and government facilities.
- Strongly recommending that bars go to 25% capacity, restaurants go to 50% capacity by reservation only and emphasis on delivery/carryout/curbside pickup.
- Personal service businesses operate by appointment only, without a waiting room.
- Gyms limit inside capacity to 25-50%.

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 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 only with strict adherence to safety measures	 Business capacity recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• essential business 50%• bars 25%• restaurants 50% (reservations/takeout)• personal services by appointments only, no waiting area
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These recommendations will be in place for a minimum of 7 days. If the outbreak situation becomes worse, the EOC may elevate to RED status at any time.

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.

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