



PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | POSITIVE CASE FROM OUT OF STATE

Date: October 9, 2020
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

One new positive test result for COVID-19 has been identified after their arrival at the James A. Johnson Airport in Petersburg. The positive case is a visitor who had been tested in the lower 48 and was awaiting results as they traveled to Petersburg. The person received results after arriving in Petersburg and had been following the proper social distancing and quarantine guidelines as provided for in State Mandate 10. The person is currently quarantined and will remain so until recovered. The EOC and PMC appreciate that this person proactively contacted the PMC once they learned of their positive result.

The Alaska Department of Epidemiology has begun a contact investigation to identify close contacts and begin isolation or quarantine of anyone that meets the criteria of a close contact. Information provided thus far indicates that close contacts are very limited and that the risk to the community is low.

We want to reassure the public that we are working closely with the Alaska Division of Public Health to identify anyone who may be at risk for having contact with these individuals. We will keep the public informed of any information that is needed for community health and safety.

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.

This situation is a clear example of how easy it is for an unknowing person to bring the virus into the community. All residents must act accordingly 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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