



PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

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

Date: July 23, 2020
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Karl Hagerman, Petersburg Borough EOC Incident Commander
Phil Hofstetter, Petersburg Medical Center Incident Commander

For Immediate Release

Two (2) new positive test results for COVID-19 has been identified through the traveler testing site at the James A. Johnson Airport in Petersburg. The positive cases are visitors from the lower 48 who were tested upon their arrival to Petersburg on July 20th and are no longer in Petersburg. The visitors did not have symptoms of COVID-19 upon their arrival to Alaska. The Alaska Department of Epidemiology has been notified and has begun a contact investigation.

Initial information is that the visitors entered Petersburg and immediately transitioned to a recreational charter vessel that does not home port in Petersburg. The vessel left the community shortly after the visitor's arrival. The risk of the persons having spread the virus in Petersburg appears to be very 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.

We must assume that COVID-19 is being spread in the community and all residents must act accordingly to prevent the further 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.

###