



PETERSBURG BOROUGH

PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | ONE ADDITIONAL POSITIVE ON NOVEMBER 14TH

Date: November 14, 2020 **5:30 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

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

This person is an Alaskan resident that recently came to Petersburg via intrastate travel. They were not experiencing symptoms and did not avail themselves of the free intrastate testing at the airport, but they did seek medical advice after hearing of a family member's recent positive result for COVID-19. The family member is elsewhere in Alaska. The person is isolating and in quarantine presently. 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. The risk to Petersburg appears to be low in relation to this case of COVID-19.

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 this individual. 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.

Intrastate travel testing for Alaskans is free and encouraged for all people entering Petersburg. 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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