



Petersburg Medical Center

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 29, 2021-2
From: Petersburg Medical Center

PMC IS REPORTING (8) ADDITIONAL COVID-19 CASES, 9-28 to 9-29, AND COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19 IS OCCURRING. SEVERAL BUSINESS SECTORS ARE IMPACTED AND PSD SCHOOLS.

Active case count: 29 resident 3 non-resident. No Travel related cases. Ages of cases range from 3 years to 62. The majority of cases are under 40 years of age. Four students are included in this case count and three are workers at a local business.

Reasons community members should be concerned:

- Rapid increase of cases for Petersburg in the past 3 days.
- Cases have been identified in the school resulting in middle and high school closures.
- The cases are not always linked to another positive case. Areas of concern for community transmission are schools, bars, and local businesses.
- The age distribution leans toward younger, unvaccinated individuals.
- Breakthrough cases are milder and there have been no PMC hospitalizations.
- Contact tracing is significantly hampered by people not answering the call from Public Health.
- Confusion for people who have been identified as a close contact. (Please call Public Health for clarification if you have questions).
- Close contacts are not notified in a timely manner that they have been exposed.
- People with symptoms are working and not testing, potentially exposing others to the virus.
- Monoclonal antibody treatment is a scarce resource and reserved for persons with high risk for serious illness, hospitalization, or death.

What every community member can do now:

Community spread of COVID-19 can be controlled by testing, identifying positive cases early and isolating early. Contact tracing helps to identify potential exposures. Contact tracing is hampered by the high number of new cases across the state. Persons who test positive are urged to notify their contacts. Contacts should stay home and monitor for symptoms. Persons uncomfortable notifying their close contacts may contact Public Health at 907-772-4611 for assistance.

Testing is available:

Thank you to community members who have participated in asymptomatic testing. Asymptomatic testing will be offered on the following schedule:

- Thursday 9/30: 9:00 – 2:00 PM, PMC next to Public Health
- Friday 10/1: 9:00 – 2:00 PM, PMC next to Public Health
- Monday – Saturday from Noon – 4:00 PM for Travel testing. PMC Emergency Department Entrance

Persons with symptoms should call the COVID Information Line at 907-772-5788 to schedule a symptomatic test through the clinic.



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When to test if you have been exposed?

- Vaccinated persons who are a close contact: test on day 3-5 after *last exposure*.
- Unvaccinated persons who are close contacts: test after day 6 of *last exposure* to a positive case. Persons who are quarantined and do not have any symptoms may be tested at the Asymptomatic testing times.
- Persons who participated in social gatherings, particularly when social distance could not be maintained are urged to test following the above guidelines.

SAVE TIME WHEN TESTING: Submit test requests online by visiting www.pmcak.org, select the drop down for COVID-19 and open the Covid Test Request Form. Forms do not need to be printed if you submit with an electronic signature. The forms may also be completed on a tablet or phone using this QR code:



STAY HOME IF SYMPTOMS DEVELOP! Children should not attend school/day care if they have symptoms. Anyone with symptoms should notify employer, test and stay home. Most people with COVID-19 start out with only one or two symptoms that may feel like a mild cold. People are the most contagious during the first few days of symptoms and can be contagious before they get any symptoms. Some people don't have any symptoms at all and are still contagious. If you notice even mild symptoms, you should get tested, even if you have been vaccinated. The CDC has a symptom self-checker here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/coronavirus-self-checker.html#>

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