



PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19

POSITIVE CASE CONFIRMED IN QUARANTINE AT SEAFOOD PROCESSING PLANT

Date: July 4, 2020
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

A new case of COVID-19 has been identified as part of OBI Seafoods routine quarantine and testing program. The positive test result was received on July 4th. The employee was in a non-working quarantine. Upon learning of the positive case, OBI Seafoods immediately enacted company protocols as per their Community and Workforce Protective Plan. The employee was immediately isolated in a separate isolation facility, and close contacts were immediately isolated in advance of State of Alaska contact tracing. Employees who might have come into contact were identified for additional testing and quarantine, and enhanced cleaning and sanitation protocols were enacted. The employee who tested positive remains asymptomatic and is in the care of an on-site EMT.

The company is working closely with local officials, the local medical team, and State of Alaska health representatives to identify further quarantine and testing recommendations, initiate contact tracing, and identify any potential risks to employees and the community. As part of the company COVID-19 employee testing protocol, OBI tested and confirmed negative results for all Petersburg employees in Seattle, WA prior to travel to Alaska. Upon arrival in Alaska, all employees are subject to a 14-day non-working quarantine and lodged on a closed campus at the plant. All employees are tested a second time on the sixth day in quarantine, and a third time just prior to release from quarantine.

This local seafood processing plant has a COVID-19 mitigation plan in place and is actively maintaining and operating under the plan. The purpose of the plan is to detect the presence of COVID-19 at an early stage and mitigate the risk to other employees, individuals, and the

community. This has been done through the systematic testing and isolation of the affected individual. The detection of this positive case shows that the plan is working effectively.

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.

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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