PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | POSITIVE CASE IN PETERSBURG

Date: April 18, 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
Petersburg Medical Center has informed the Petersburg Borough of a positive test result for COVID-19 in Petersburg. State of Alaska public health officials have made contact with the individual and will continue to monitor their condition and ensure self-isolation. Public health officials have also initiated a contact investigation and are reaching out to any person who may have come into contact with the individual. Alaska Division of Public Health will notify and provide instructions for necessary precautions to any additional persons and monitor for symptoms as appropriate. Persons known to have direct contact with the individual will be in self-quarantine for a period of no less than 14 days.

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.

The total number of cases in Petersburg is currently 1 active, 1 recovered and 1 deceased. Over 70 tests have been performed.

We also want to encourage our citizens to continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations for precautionary measures such as handwashing and social distancing and masking when in public spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained.

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.

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.