PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | POSITIVE CASE AT SEAFOOD PROCESSING PLANT**

Date:        June 18, 2020
From:        Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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**For Immediate Release**

A new positive test result for COVID-19 has been identified through a COVID-19 testing program at Petersburg Trident Seafood. The Alaska Department of Epidemiology has been notified and will begin a contact investigation. The employee does not have symptoms of COVID-19.

As part of Trident's mitigation plan all workers that travel to Petersburg are tested prior to arrival in Petersburg. They are quarantined in a bunkhouse, tested again at day 10. If results are negative, they are released from quarantine on day 14.  The person was tested on day 10 of the 14-day quarantine.  The employee and roommate, who tested negative on day 10, have been isolated and will continue to quarantine until released by the Department of Epidemiology.

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 and individuals. 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 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.

**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.

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