



PETERSBURG BOROUGH | PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER  
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER UNIFIED COMMAND

### **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | EOC SITUATION UPDATES**

Date: April 17, 2020  
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact: Karl Hagerman, Petersburg Borough EOC Incident Commander  
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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

This brief responds to questions and provides an update on information from the Emergency Operations Center Unified Command (EOC) and its partner agencies. Contact the EOC with your questions at [eoc@petersburgak.gov](mailto:eoc@petersburgak.gov).

#### **COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE**

PMC has tested 76 patients for COVID-19; 1 recovered positive case, 67 tests have returned negative and 8 tests are still pending.

COVID-19 lab testing on site will be available in the next few weeks. This lab equipment has been provided by the State of Alaska and will provide rapid results in situations that physicians feel a result will impact patient care decisions. Patients must call the hotline 772-5788 with any questions about symptoms. There is no walk up testing available.

#### **ALTERNATE CARE SITE**

The Petersburg Medical Center has been working in conjunction with the school district and Borough to build an Alternate Care Site at the high school gymnasium. This site will be used when there is a surge of cases that cannot be managed at the 12 bed hospital. The Alternate Care Site will be for COVID positive patients who need medical supervision and support but do not need intensive care in the hospital. This site will accommodate up to 10 patients.

#### **PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER OPERATIONS**

Hospital workers continue to stagger schedules or work from home to minimize close working conditions. PMC has a mandatory masking policy in place for all staff and patients. In addition, all staff and patients continue to be screened for symptoms at the emergency room entrance, which is the only access to the hospital during this time.

#### **CLINIC APPOINTMENTS**

Joy Janssen Clinic is accepting appointments. Patients will be screened to be sure they don't have symptoms that would require them to be screened for COVID-19. Patients will be given instructions for coming to the clinic. Physicians are beginning telemedicine appointments this week. Patients may be asked if this is an option they would like when they call to make an appointment.

## **MASKING**

The EOC is coordinating with local mask makers to consolidate masks that are being produced and distribute the masks to those in need.

- **Drop off handmade masks** at Petersburg Rexall Drugs, visit [www.petersburgrexalldrug.com](http://www.petersburgrexalldrug.com) or call 772-3265 for open hours.
- **To request masks or learn to make masks contact:** [eoc@petersburgak.gov](mailto:eoc@petersburgak.gov) or 907-772-3349 ex. 3
- **Masking tips from Petersburg Medical Center:**
  - We wear a mask to protect others, not to protect ourselves.
  - Masks should be treated as infectious, don't touch your mask or face when wearing a mask.
  - Carefully take masks off by touching the straps only and not touching the front
  - Wash them at least every day, don't wear them for more than one day.
  - Something is better than nothing when it comes to masking, the tighter the weave the better, double layer masks are advised.
  - To prevent fogging up on glasses you can clean glasses with a tiny amount of shaving cream or liquid soap and then rinse with water.
  - The CDC has new recommendations for outside activities. If you're doing physical activities outside, like biking, hiking and running, wear face masks that cover your mouth and nose. Stay 20 feet away from others, not just 6 feet.

## **SATURDAY MEAL PROGRAM**

Soup Lunches are being served at the Fisherman's Memorial outside the Sons of Norway Hall Saturdays from 12-1. Anyone is welcome to pick up a takeaway lunch of soup and bread. A big thank you to the Sons of Norway for sponsoring this and allowing the use of their kitchen and to the volunteers & EOC team members who are working to make this happen.

## **PETERSBURG BOROUGH MANAGER UPDATE**

Thanks to many dedicated employees, local government continues to operate and provide basic services. Department Heads, staff and the Assembly will be tackling next year's budget for the community over the next several months. Governor Dunleavy has vetoed several important parts of the State's budget which will put pressure on local services such as KFSK, Borough General Fund departments, and taxpayers in general. Like last year, the State will not fully fund the School Bond Debt reimbursement, and the Community Assistance Program is being reduced by a significant amount. While still under discussion, it is likely most activities around the 4th of July celebration will be cancelled to avoid outbreaks and to stay in compliance with various State Mandates. All Borough public meetings are now being conducted using teleconference equipment, and the public is encouraged to participate using email, letters, and telephone interactions until such time we can all safely meet again. For questions please contact the appropriate Department Head, or [dthompson@petersburgak.gov](mailto:dthompson@petersburgak.gov), Debra Thompson, Borough Clerk.

## **STAY INFORMED**

**SIGN UP** for CodeRED at [www.petersburgak.gov](http://www.petersburgak.gov)

**LISTEN** to the KFSK weekday radio show at 12:30

**READ** the newspaper for updates

**CHECK** these websites daily

- Petersburg Borough: [www.petersburgak.gov](http://www.petersburgak.gov)
- State of Alaska COVID-19 Dashboard: [www.coronavirus.alaska.gov](http://www.coronavirus.alaska.gov).
- CDC: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## **ACT LIKE YOU HAVE IT**

When out for essential trips, wear a cloth face covering and practice social distancing. If you are sick or suspect that you may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and our community. If you've developed a fever, cough or difficulty breathing or have other new and unusual symptoms, please contact: **Petersburg Medical Center 24 hour COVID-19 hotline 772-5788.**