



PETERSBURG BOROUGH | PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER  
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER UNIFIED COMMAND

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

Date: May 22, 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

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).

#### DON'T HESITATE TO CALL THE HOTLINE

Anybody can get tested who has ANY of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, a decreased appetite, diminished sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle or joint aches, nausea, rash, rigors, a runny nose, a sore throat, sputum production. Anyone with any symptoms is encouraged to call PMC's 24-hour COVID-19 hotline (907) 772-5788. Experienced nurses are answering the calls.

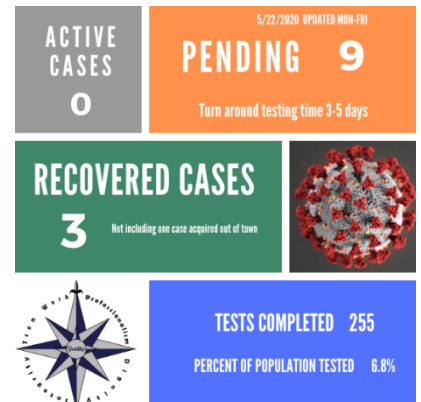
#### LONG TERM CARE

Since asymptomatic carriers have been identified as a source for outbreaks in long term care facilities, PMC Long Term Care took the proactive step to screen all residents and staff working in Long Term Care for COVID-19. A total of 11 residents and about 45 staff were tested. No one had symptoms of COVID-19. Specimens were sent to a commercial laboratory for the most sensitive testing method. All results that have returned are negative with one sample still pending. As Alaska opens up, our LTC facility will be taking measured steps, guided by the Federal Government to open LTC. Family and friends can stay connected with their loved ones through technology and we encourage virtual visits. Please contact Long Term Care Activities at 772-5747 if you would like to arrange a virtual visit!

#### STATE OF ALASKA'S PLAN FORWARD

Petersburg has done an excellent job of managing COVID-19. We responded quickly to an unknown threat to keep our cases low and to ensure our healthcare systems have the increased capacity to deal with COVID-19 cases in the future. As Alaska reopens is it everyone's responsibility to:

- Stay six feet or more away from non-family members.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Wipe down surfaces frequently.



- Wear a face covering when in a public setting in close contact with others.
- Stay home if you are sick and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms.
- Be mindful and respectful to those Alaskans that are most vulnerable to this virus. Those being our seniors and those with existing health issues.

We continue to be very proud of how our community and our local partners have responded to this pandemic. Organizations like Icicle and Trident Seafoods, our small businesses, Petersburg Medical Center, the Incident Command Team, and our Borough employees have worked incredibly hard to keep our community safe through this process. Thank you to everyone in the Community who have continued to help keep our most vulnerable safe, and a very special shout out to our 2020 Graduates. They missed out on some things, but will always be a part of one of the most special graduating class ever!

### **PETERSBURG BOROUGH REOPENING**

As Governor Dunleavy pushes forward with a Statewide reopening plan for Alaska, the Petersburg Borough is also in the process of evaluating how and when Borough facilities will be opened to the public. Over the next several weeks, departments will be providing reopening plans to the Borough Manager and the Incident Command staff on the steps they feel are necessary to safely reopen. Our top priorities are adding additional services at the Library, the Municipal Building and the Harbor. In addition, we are hoping to be able to open the parks, playground structures and public bathrooms throughout the Borough. Each of these openings will have some restrictions, and the Borough will be providing extra cleaning and sanitizing to every reopened facility. In addition, the Borough's Parks & Recreation Department will be working closely with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a plan for identifying what can be safely done for the 4th of July. The Borough expects to reopen the Community Gym and Aquatic Center to some activities by August 1, and to be fully open by the start of the School year. Public access to other departments or activities such as the Assisted Living, the Fire Department and the Assembly meetings will be phased in as State Mandates allow and we can safely reopen without putting these folks in danger.

### **MASKS**

Homemade masks are now available for pick-up at Rexall Drug. If you need more than one or two masks, please make your requests by calling 772-3349 ext.3 or e-mailing [eoc@petersburgak.gov](mailto:eoc@petersburgak.gov)

### **HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT KEEPING EMPLOYEES SAFE AS YOUR BUSINESS REOPENS?**

#### **ASK A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE.**

For both employers and employees, there may be uncertainty and fear around reopening a business or workplace. Having plans and good communication in place can help to alleviate some of this. Erin Michael, our local Public Health Nurse is an excellent resource. She can review plans you have in place to protect employees, go over what happens if an employee tests positive for COVID-19, and provide information to employees about COVID-19. Contact the EOC at [eoc@petersburgak.gov](mailto:eoc@petersburgak.gov).

### **STAY INFORMED**

**LISTEN** to the KFSK radio show M/W/F at 12:30

**READ** the newspaper for updates

**CHECK** these websites daily

- Petersburg Unified Command Information Hub: [www.psgcovidinfo.net](http://www.psgcovidinfo.net)
- State of Alaska COVID-19 Dashboard: [www.coronavirus.alaska.gov](http://www.coronavirus.alaska.gov)
- CDC: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)