



PETERSBURG BOROUGH | PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER UNIFIED COMMAND

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

Date: October 9, 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.

	Cumulative	Active	Recovered	Deceased
Resident	8	1	6	1
Non-resident	7	0	7	0

For current information about local case counts visit: www.psgcovidinfo.net

'FALSE POSTIVES' & COVID TESTING ACCURACY

There are local rumors that last week's positive case was a 'false positive'. The rumors are false, not the test result. COVID swabs are tested twice. First, they are tested at the PMC Laboratory, then they are confirmed by an additional and more sensitive method at the State of Alaska Public Health Laboratory using high volume PCR testing. The methods in use at the Alaska State Public Health Laboratory are highly specific and sensitive, with a greater level of detection for the viral particles. Because of this sensitivity and specificity, *the possibility of a false positive is virtually non-existent*. Other methods, such as antigen testing or antibody testing, are not as reliable since they are less specific and less sensitive than the PCR test. These are not performed at PMC at this time. More information is available at <https://www.pmcak.org/faq.html> or call PMC's 24-hour **COVID-19 hotline (907) 772-5788**.

PLANNING FALL TRAVEL? REGISTER ON THE PORTAL

Planning fall travels? Both Alaska residents and non-residents traveling must register on the Alaska Travel Portal and follow the testing protocols required by the State when returning home from out of the state. Registering on the portal when making your plans and well before you travel is recommended! Alaska Travel Portal: <https://www.alaska.covidsecureapp.com/>

REGISTER NOW FOR PMC'S FREE DRIVE THRU FLU VACCINE CLINIC – SAT OCT 17, 10AM-1PM

Register online and save time in line: www.pmcak.org. There are many reasons to get vaccinated. It is especially important to get a flu vaccine this year to reduce the burden on our hospital. If a bad flu season coincides with a

spike in COVID cases, getting your flu vaccination is one important way you can take charge and help to prevent our limited local resources from becoming overwhelmed.

CASES ARE RISING SIGNIFICANTLY IN ALASKA

COVID-19 case rates are continuing to rise in many Alaska communities. Statewide numbers are at all-time highs for 14-day average case rate (14.93 cases per 100,000 population) and percent positivity (3.84% for a 7-day rolling average). Alaska's overall alert level continues to be high and trending up. The EOC urges everyone in the community take the following steps to keep our case counts low and help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Get tested if you feel sick at all. Stay home and isolate; don't be around others if you are not feeling well.
- Avoid the 3 C's: Crowded settings, close contacts and confined spaces. Keep you contacts limited and your social circles small.
- Do the 3 W's: Wear a mask, watch your distance and wash your hands.

HOW COVID-19 SPREADS

The CDC has release updated information on "How COVID-19 spreads" to include information about how COVID-19 can sometimes be spread by airborne transmission. This simple, useful webpage provides the latest information on how COVID spreads so you can better protect yourself. According to the CDC, "There is evidence that under certain conditions, people with COVID-19 seem to have infected others who were more than 6 feet away. These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising." To read the revised CDC webpage:

<http://www.cdc.gov/.../prevent.../how-covid-spreads.html>

PETERSBURG CHILDCARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Available funds up to: Average monthly K-5 fee = \$600; Average preschool-age fee = \$700 All families can apply for assistance by completing the application form available at licensed providers, Elementary School can also email the form to you. Applications must be submitted by the 1st of the month for October, November, and December. Current CARES Act funding must be spent by December 15th.

PIA RENTAL, AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS

The Petersburg Indian Association is offering financial assistance for all eligible tribal members. Contact PIA at 772-3636 for more information.

CORONAVIRUS NONPROFIT RELIEF FUND (CNRF)

The third round of the Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Fund is now open. Application period for this round closes on October 14. The funding will enable nonprofits to continue providing essential services that prevent or alleviate negative impacts of COVID-19 on the economy, jobs, families, and children. More info at: alaskacf.org/cnrf

QUESTIONS ABOUT SYMPTOMS OR TEST RESULTS? CALL THE HOTLINE

Anyone with even one new symptom of COVID-19 (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea), even if it is very mild, should get tested for COVID-19 right away. Tests are most accurate in the first few days of symptoms, and if the test is positive, getting tested right away helps contact tracers move as quickly as possible. Call PMC's 24-hour **COVID-19 hotline (907) 772-5788**. Experienced nurses are answering the calls.