



PETERSBURG BOROUGH | PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER UNIFIED COMMAND

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

Date: July 24, 2020
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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.

| COVID-19 in Petersburg | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| | Cumulative | Active | Recovered | Deceased |
| Resident | 6 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Non-resident | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 |

For current information about Petersburg’s case counts visit: www.psgcovidinfo.net

CASES IN ALASKA ARE RISING RAPIDLY

Total cases in Alaska residents have risen by more than a quarter in this week alone. Most nonresident cases have been identified before the person had significant community interaction, so most new cases in Alaskans are acquired from other Alaskans who have not traveled. Transmission is occurring in almost every business type that involves in-person interaction as well as many types of social gatherings: backyard barbecues, funerals, weddings, children’s sporting events, camps, churches and any time groups gather with others outside their household. The majority of new cases are among Alaskans aged 20-29, with cases among Alaskans in their 20s and 30s rising sharply. With current rates of physical distancing, face covering use and other measures to prevent transmission, cases are expected to continue to rise rapidly.

KEEP YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLES SMALL - VERY SMALL!

With cases rising in Alaska, we should all shrink our social bubbles. This is especially important for those who are at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19 but it’s good guidance for everyone. You can still visit with others but be outside if you can and always keep six feet apart from anyone who is not in your close trusted household bubble. Wear a mask, especially if you are in a space where it’s difficult to keep six feet apart.

WHAT IS A HIGH RISK ACTIVITY?

Ongoing contact tracing has uncovered many cases in Alaskans who have had possible exposures related to group activities. These include churches, residential living facilities, workplaces, bars and social gatherings. Alaskans should be aware that any gathering, particularly indoors, poses some risk of exposure and should take steps to minimize their risk and the risk they pose to others by keeping their social circles small, wearing face coverings, avoiding large gatherings, and gathering only if it is possible to remain 6 feet apart, ideally outdoors.

ASSISTANCE WITH AK CARES APPLICATIONS – AUG 7

Mark your calendars for August 7 at 12pm. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Conference will host a virtual meeting via Zoom to address questions and provide assistance in applying for Alaska CARES COVID-19 Relief Program. The Alaska CARES Grant Program launched June 1st to provide emergency relief funds to Alaskan small businesses. For more information, visit commerce.alaska.gov and CU1.org and join us Friday, August 7 at noon at <https://zoom.us/j/7065344482>

PPP LOANS/GRANTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING BUSINESSES - DEADLINE AUG 8

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The PPP has been amended to allow commercial fishing businesses to account for crew member payroll when applying for PPP loans. For those businesses with existing PPP loans, the PPP loan amount can only be amended if your lender has NOT yet submitted the paperwork to SBA, usually within 10 days of disbursing the PPP funds to you. Once the paperwork is submitted, the loan cannot be changed as it is considered a completed transaction. SBA will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met and the funds are used for eligible expenses. Apply through your local bank.

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE FACE COVERINGS?

Many Alaskans have expressed an interest in reading the scientific studies that support of the use cloth face coverings to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Here are some of the key studies: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/facecoverings.aspx>

WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC

EOC strongly encourages wearing cloth face coverings in public, especially when it's difficult to maintain 6 feet from others. Cloth face coverings provide some protection to the wearer but do even more to help you protect others. It's a way to help keep those around you healthy and safe. When you take care of yourself, you take care of our community. If you need masks you can pick them up at Rexall Drugs, 772-3349 ext.3 or e-mail us at eoc@petersburgak.gov.

GOT SYMPTOMS? 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.