



PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER
PETERSBURG PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | POTENTIAL COVID-19 EXPOSURE LOCATIONS

Date: October 15, 2020
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

Three (3) positive test results for COVID-19 had been identified in Petersburg on October 14, 2020. The positive cases were showing symptoms and are all within a single household. The persons have been told to isolate from others and work with public health in regard to their recovery. At the present time, information indicates that one member of the family had recently traveled and the positive test result is likely related to their travel within the state.

New Information

As a result of ongoing contact tracing investigations, there are indications that one of the positive cases visited local bars before they knew of their infection. While there has not been any identified spread to patrons or employees of local bars at this time, there is a potential for others in the community to have been infected.

The Petersburg Borough EOC, Petersburg Medical Center and the Petersburg Public Health Nurse recommend that anyone who worked at or socialized at a Petersburg bar on October 9th and/or 10th call the local COVID-19 hotline at 772-5788 immediately and seek a COVID-19 screening and test regardless of whether they have symptoms.

Screening and testing of potentially exposed persons is recommended with or without symptoms. Any person that is considered a close contact to the infected persons should quarantine a full 14 days as recommended by public health.

Alternatively, testing is available through SEARHC at 202 Gjoa St on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 2pm. No appointment is needed and testing is provided at no charge.

The Alaska Department of Epidemiology is continuing with contact investigations to identify close contacts and begin isolation or quarantine of anyone that meets the criteria of a close contact to the three persons involved.

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 these individuals. We will keep the public informed of any non-confidential information that is needed for community health and safety. Members of the public that have been potentially exposed should be proactive and call the COVID-19 hotline as soon as possible.

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.

The virus is in Petersburg. All residents must be proactive with established health precautions in order to mitigate the potential spread of the 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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