



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, CITY OF KETCHIKAN, AND CITY OF SAXMAN

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19

Date: March 16, 2020
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-6605

For Immediate Release

The Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has moved to a Level 2 Activation. The EOC has formed a Unified Command System and has set up the section leadership to be able to operate promptly and efficiently for coordinated communications, preparedness, and response.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ketchikan EOC, the City and Borough Mayors have declared a disaster emergency in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City of Ketchikan, and City of Saxman. A copy of the Declaration of Disaster Emergency is attached.

City and Borough Facility Updates

At 5:00 this afternoon the City of Ketchikan, City of Saxman, and Borough administrative facilities will be closed to physical public access until further notice. In addition to the facilities previously closed on March 13 and March 15, 2020, the City and Borough facilities that are closed to the public include:

- Borough White Cliff Building, 1900 First Avenue; Taxes and Billing Information 228-6620
- Borough Pat Wise Animal Shelter, 1111 Stedman St, 228-6660
- City Hall, 334 Front Street; Customer Service 225-3111
- City of Ketchikan Ports and Harbors, 2933 Tongass Avenue, 228-5632
- All KPU Offices, including KPU Customer Service in the Plaza, 2417 Tongass Avenue; 228-5474
- Ketchikan City Fire Station #1, 70 Bawden Street, 225-9616
- Ketchikan City Fire Station #2, 3352 Tongass Avenue, 247-9616
- Saxman City Hall and Community Center, 2841 South Tongass Hwy, 225-4166

The City and Borough administrative offices will continue to operate under normal business hours and staff will be available to assist citizens via online and telephonic services. The closure of facilities is meant to minimize interaction of the public in order to reduce the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. While there remain to be no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan, we want to take precautions to prevent its spread.

The City and Borough encourage online and telephonic payment methods, as well as conducting business and communications via email and telephone. City services can be accessed by visiting the City of Ketchikan's website at www.ktn-ak.us or call 907.225.3111. Borough services can be accessed by visiting Ketchikan Gateway Borough's website at www.kgbak.us or call 907.228.6605.

City and Borough Service Updates During Pandemic

In an effort to facilitate working from home, KPU customers will be provided an increased internet speed, and has announced that will charge NO overages on any internet plan for residential or business. Additionally, the City is suspending parking permit requirements.

To assist our elderly patrons, the Borough has announced that the yellow tax exempt senior cards do not expire until further notice, and seniors may give their card to any person to assist them with shopping so that elders may more effectively self-quarantine.

Group Gatherings

In following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, we recommend that public gatherings and events be canceled. The CDC guidelines are available at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>.

For events that cannot be canceled, we encourage online or telephonic participation.

For Borough Assembly meetings we encourage the public to access the live feed via KPU, GCI, or online at http://borough-ketchikan.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=3. Citizens may submit public comments be read into the record to boroclerk@kgbak.us.

For City Council meetings we encourage the public to access the live feed via KPU, GCI, or online at www.ktn-ak.us/current-agendas-and-minutes. During this time, Ketchikan citizens can submit questions or comments to be read aloud during the meeting to clerks@city.ketchikan.ak.us.

Continued Information

Again, there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ketchikan. If that changes, the Ketchikan EOC will work diligently to ensure the public is notified and to take all actions necessary to respond to the situation in order to protect our community. The decisions that have been made are in an effort to be proactive and are out of an abundance of caution. We continue to work together to make sure that Ketchikan has the most up-to-date information available with access to key information.

#ketchikanstayhealthy #staystrongketchikan #stepsforahealthycommunity

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