



PETERSBURG BOROUGH    PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL INCREASED TO LEVEL 2 - ORANGE**

Date:            January 4, 2021  7:45 pm  
From:            Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact:        Karl Hagerman, Petersburg Borough EOC Incident Commander  
                    Phil Hofstetter, Petersburg Medical Center Incident Commander

**For Immediate Release**

**The EOC has elevated Petersburg's Community Risk Level to ORANGE.**

This is the MODERATE risk level within the Community Risk Communication Plan. Risk Indicators leading to this elevation include:

- Petersburg has seen 6 local cases of COVID-19 over the last seven days.
- Currently, three (3) cases are travel related. Two of the three travel related cases were symptomatic.
- Currently, three (3) cases are considered community spread. All community spread cases were symptomatic and apparently unrelated. Two (2) of the cases are PMC employees.
- PMC is in red status and staffing levels are at a thin margin.
- The local positivity rate for testing is currently at 1.0%.

**Per the approved Risk Communication Plan, the community is encouraged to follow the recommendations of the Risk Communication Plan for Level 2 – ORANGE.** Detailed guidance can be found through the Community Risk Communication Plan link on the COVID-19 Dashboard. In general, Level 2 recommendations include:






- Adherence to local Mandate #8 in regard to wearing face coverings, especially in public locations when in the company of others.
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance between yourself and people outside of your household.

- Limiting gatherings to up to 50 people if outside and 25 people inside, with high regard for face coverings, social distancing and hygiene.
- Recommendations for the School District include considering limits of 50% of students in the building at one time in a hybrid education mode. Additional safety protocols defined in the PCSD Smart Start plan.
- Adherence to all State and Local travel mandates and testing protocols – including follow up second tests with a State Testing Voucher.
- Encouraging staggered staffing for essential businesses and government facilities.
- Strongly recommending that bars go to 25% capacity, restaurants go to 50% capacity by reservation only and emphasis on delivery/carryout/curbside pickup.
- Personal service businesses operate by appointment only, without a waiting room.
- Gyms limit inside capacity to 25-50%.

These recommendations will be in place for a minimum of 7 days. By following these recommendations, the potential for additional spread of the virus is lessened and may allow for Petersburg to return to Level 1 – Yellow within a week. If the community disregards these recommendations, the potential for an increased risk level to Level 3-Red is possible at any time.

Now is the time to do your part to curb this outbreak in Petersburg and get us back to where we have been for the last couple of months. Protecting one another through these recommendations is key to stopping the spread and keeping the impacts to Petersburg’s hospital, school and economy to a minimum. We ask that if you are contacted by Public Health you answer the call. This may show up as an unknown caller on your phone. Please follow their instructions carefully so thorough contact tracing can be accomplished quickly.

**PETERSBURG COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 2 MODERATE**

 <p><b>Face covering where social distancing can not be maintained</b></p>	 <p><b>6 feet must be maintained with people outside of the household</b></p>	 <p><b>Follow State Health Orders for travel &amp; local intrastate travel mandate</b></p>	 <p><b>Gatherings of 50+ outdoors 25+ indoors only with strict adherence to safety measures</b></p>	 <p><b>Business capacity recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• essential business 50%</li> <li>• bars 25%</li> <li>• restaurants 50% (reservations/takeout)</li> <li>• personal services by appointments only, no waiting area</li> </ul>
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**PETERSBURG EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER      [WWW.PSGCOVIDINFO.NET](http://WWW.PSGCOVIDINFO.NET)**

Please refer to the CDC webpage for information on symptoms and precautionary measures at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/](http://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](http://coronavirus.alaska.gov).

**All residents must take action to mitigate the potential spread of this 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.

**Petersburg Medical Center COVID Hotline**

**907-772-5788**

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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