

Bill Hogan
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

www.hss.state.ak.us



Media Advisory

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2009

Contact: Greg Wilkinson, (907) 269-7285, Cell (907) 382-7032, gregory.wilkinson@alaska.gov
Ann Potempa, (907) 269-7957, Cell (907) 230-4001, ann.potempa@alaska.gov

Alaska reports more H1N1 (swine) flu cases

Fairbanks lab confirms two new cases

(Anchorage, AK) — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services virology laboratory in Fairbanks reported two new positive test results for the novel H1N1 (swine) flu in Alaska. The samples were confirmed on Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

One patient is a pre-teen from Haines. The boy first reported feeling ill on May 27 after returning from a trip to Seattle. A sample was taken by a private provider on May 28. He has since recovered and no one among his family or friends has reported any flu-like illness.

The other patient is an adult male in his 20s from Fairbanks who first reported feeling ill on May 30. A sample was taken at a clinic on June 2. No information is currently available on where or how he may have been infected.

There is no known connection between these two cases and the first case in Fairbanks reported on May 28.

“The presence of novel H1N1 in Alaska is really the ‘new normal’,” said Dr. Jay Butler, Alaska’s chief medical officer. “We will continue to see more of the H1N1 flu cases confirmed around the state throughout the summer and into the fall. Everyone should continue to practice good hand hygiene and cough etiquette to protect them and reduce the spread of this, and many other diseases.”

###

DHSS is now on Twitter. Follow health updates at www.twitter.com/Alaska_DHSS.