

State of Alaska FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Epidemiology Component Budget Summary

Component: Epidemiology

Contribution to Department's Mission

The department's mission is to promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans. The Epidemiology component contributes to this mission by preventing and controlling disease outbreaks; providing surveillance, epidemic response and investigation through defining causal factors; identifying and directing control measures; and providing a basis for policy development, program planning and evaluation.

Core Services

- Provide medical, epidemiological and toxicological expertise for disease control and epidemic response, both for naturally occurring events and for biological, chemical or radiological terrorism.
- Provide around-the-clock epidemiology response capacity for disease outbreak investigations, medical consultation, and response to public health emergencies.
- Gather, maintain and analyze data to conduct disease surveillance, provide an accurate picture of the health status of Alaskans, and enable improved evaluation of program activities.
- Assure adequacy of immunization outreach and access to vaccinations so that all Alaska children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and in compliance with daycare and school immunization requirements.
- Provide trained public health professional services for partner notification and contact identification, education, diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring for tuberculosis, HIV, sexually transmitted disease (STD), and other specific infectious diseases of public health importance.
- Maintain a system of direct disease reporting from health care providers and laboratories to the Epidemiology Component to monitor the population for health threats.
- Develop public health guidelines for consumption of subsistence foods to reduce the risks related to environmental contaminants such as lead, arsenic, asbestos, and other toxins and heavy metals.
- Provide appropriate treatment and case management for all persons diagnosed with tuberculosis. Assure a complete contact investigation for each person with infectious tuberculosis.
- Assess and control chemical exposures of importance to public health.

FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2010 Component Budget: \$10,799,000

Personnel:

Full time	56
Part time	0
Total	56

Key Component Challenges

- Maintain medical and epidemiological and toxicological expertise needed to accomplish the section's disease control mission.
- Ensure that all children are immunized on time.
- Maintain a vaccine distribution program to provide all recommended vaccines for Alaska children and adolescents receiving services in public and private sector clinics throughout the state. Distribute selected adult vaccines as funding allows.
- Increase protection against vaccine-preventable diseases through enforcement of new immunization requirements for students in schools and child care facilities.
- Provide anti-tuberculosis medications and maintain direct observed therapy (DOT) for all persons who have tuberculosis.
- Maintain partner notification and disease intervention activities for those exposed to HIV/AIDS and other

- sexually transmitted diseases.
- Maintain and expand a web-based electronic system of direct disease reporting to the Epidemiology component from laboratories and health care providers.
- Maintain a web-based database of immunizations received by persons throughout the state, and make this medical history available to Alaska providers.
- Ensure that funding and expertise is available for responses to biological, chemical and radiological terrorism, disease outbreaks, chemical exposures of health concern, and control of emerging infectious diseases.
- Collect data to support the development of consensus guidelines for consumption of subsistence foods and commercial seafood.
- Increase cooperative activities with components within the division, with other divisions within the department, and with other agencies with health missions in Alaska.
- Seek and administer federal funds to help address core state public health responsibilities.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

- With capital funds appropriated in 2006, the section's Disease Surveillance and Management System will maintain a database for reportable conditions and a means for centralized and electronic disease reporting, case investigation and monitoring, rule-based alerting and geographical information systems mapping.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2008

- Investigated an outbreak of *Campylobacter jejuni* infection in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). More than 60 individuals with laboratory-confirmed illness were identified and several required hospitalization. This investigation established a firm linkage between *C. jejuni* infection and consumption of peas grown in Palmer. Based on the molecular analysis of *C. jejuni* isolates from clinical and environmental samples, the source of contamination of the peas appears to be Sandhill Crane feces. Disease notification, treatment, and prevention strategies were communicated to residents and health care providers throughout Alaska via health alert messaging, an Epi Bulletin, and the media.
- Investigated an outbreak of adenovirus 14 that sickened more than 40 people in communities on Prince of Wales Island. Disease notification and prevention strategies were communicated to Prince of Wales Island residents and health care providers throughout Alaska via health alert messaging and the media.
- In partnership with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, began development of procedures to assess the health impacts of proposed large-scale natural resource development projects. Participated on an interagency workgroup to develop a health impact assessment for the Red Dog mine expansion, excerpts of which will appear in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the project.
- Implemented *VacTrAK*, a secure Internet-based Immunization Information System (IIS), and a companion Disease Surveillance Management System.
- Published 28 Epidemiology *Bulletins* from July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 to inform health care providers and the public of important investigations, concerns, or alerts regarding health issues.
- Responded to 194 after-hours calls through the 24/7 emergency phone number; all were responded to within 10 minutes.
- Published a revision of the booklet, "Conditions Reportable to Public Health." This revision added 14 new conditions that are reportable by health care providers and 16 new pathogens reportable by laboratories. The new booklet includes a laminated insert that lists all reportable conditions, and pathogens and key contact information.
- In partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage, continued work to control an ongoing outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) in the homeless population. This outbreak began in December of 2005 and 39 cases had been identified as of the fall of 2008. The TB program has collaborated with the municipality to provide regular screening events at facilities that support the homeless and provided housing for homeless persons with TB during the course of treatment.
- In conjunction with the Vaccinate Alaska Coalition, issued provider education sheets ("VAC_FACT") on selected vaccines.
- Maintained a Vaccine Depot for distribution of vaccines to public and private providers throughout the state. Due to changes in vaccine distribution methodologies at the national level, Alaska is the only state that continues to provide vaccines from an in-state location. This is important not only to ensure appropriate vaccine distribution within Alaska's diverse settings, but also to provide an important resource for a speedy

Alaskan response in the event of a public health emergency/bioterrorism event. During FY08, the Vaccine Depot distributed over \$10.5 million of vaccine to Alaska providers.

- Established new immunization requirements for protection against varicella (chickenpox) and pertussis (whooping cough) for students enrolled in Alaska schools
- From July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008, conducted 85 HIV interviews, identifying 188 contacts plus 92 additional high-risk individuals meriting follow-up. Of those individuals who were identified for testing, 184 of them were located, 153 tested negative and 8 tested newly positive for HIV infection. In addition, follow-up services were provided to 15 individuals living with HIV for referral to medical care or other necessary services.
- Conducted disease investigation and intervention activities. HIV/STD program staff continued to address an extended syphilis outbreak in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. From January 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 3,535 individuals with syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia were documented to have been interviewed, identifying 5,520 partners, approximately 72% of whom were located and received appropriate intervention services.
- Increased enrollment in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and expanded the ADAP formulary to include all FDA approved HIV antiretroviral and hepatitis treatment drugs through supplemental federal HIV Care funds in FY08.
- Produced a social marketing campaign for HIV prevention that was developed in rural Alaska utilizing Americorps volunteers in five villages through a grant with RurAL CAP.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, increased the number of immunization compliance audits conducted in child care facilities by 35%, and by 7% in schools.
- In partnership with the Vaccinate Alaska Coalition, sponsored the annual "I Did It by TWO!" childhood immunization campaign, integrating the important message of childhood immunizations with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The dog mushers' racing bibs carried the message "Race to Vaccinate". Several mushers were enlisted to speak throughout the year on the importance of immunizations.
- Partnered with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to sponsor a statewide Maternal and Child Health and Immunization Conference. This event, which was attended by public and private providers from throughout Alaska, provided an important venue to emphasize new vaccines, new program policies, and appropriate vaccine storage and handling techniques.
- Participated in the national Countermeasure Response Administration (CRA) pilot during Alaska influenza immunization clinics. The CRA system would be utilized to provide accountability of measures (such as a vaccine) distributed to Alaskans in response to an unanticipated event, such as an act of bioterrorism.
- Published two Epidemiology Bulletins to summarize twelve years of blood lead surveillance data, identifying important Alaska-specific risk factors for elevated lead exposures among workers, children, and non-occupationally exposed adults.
- Assisted Head Start providers and Alaska's medical community to provide blood lead screening services for children enrolled in Head Start programs in several communities.
- In partnership with DEC, evaluated vapor intrusion issues at several sites contaminated with volatile solvents.
- Interpreted the public health significance of ambient air quality issues in several communities (elevated levels of particulate matter 2.5 in Fairbanks, benzene levels in Anchorage, and naturally occurring asbestos in Ambler).

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 09.65.161	Immunity for disclosure of required health care data
AS 14.07.020	Duties of the Department of Education and Early Development
AS 14.30.125	Department of Education and Early Development – Immunization.
AS 18.05.010-070	Administration of Public Health and Related Laws
AS 18.15.010-900	Disease Control and Threats to Public Health
AS 40.25.120	Public Records: exceptions; certified copies
AS 44.29.020	Duties of the Department of Health and Social Services
AS 44.62.245	Material Incorporated by Reference
AS 47.05.012	Material Incorporated by Reference
4AAC 60.100	Pre-Elementary Schools - Immunizations Required
7AAC 12.650	Employee Health Program – TB testing; rubella and hepatitis B immunity
7AAC 27.005-900	Preventative Medical Services

7AAC 27.892	Maintaining lists and registries of immunizations
7AAC 50.455	Health in Full Time Care Facilities – Immunizations Required
7AAC 57.550	Child Care Regulations – Health (includes immunizations)
7AAC 75.220	Operation of Assisted Living Homes - General Requirements
7AAC 78.010-320	Grant Programs

Contact Information
<p>Contact: Kate Bowns, Acting Budget Manager Phone: (907) 465-2749 Fax: (907) 465-1850 E-mail: Kate.Bowns@alaska.gov</p>

**Epidemiology
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	4,411.4	5,530.4	5,755.7
72000 Travel	197.4	372.3	362.3
73000 Services	1,804.3	2,482.8	1,666.8
74000 Commodities	1,771.4	1,418.2	1,418.2
75000 Capital Outlay	1,128.2	188.5	88.5
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,185.6	1,507.5	1,507.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	10,498.3	11,499.7	10,799.0
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	8,486.9	8,548.3	7,733.5
1003 General Fund Match	478.2	478.2	478.6
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,212.2	1,713.7	1,737.6
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	400.5	490.3
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	321.0	359.0	359.0
Funding Totals	10,498.3	11,499.7	10,799.0

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	8,486.9	8,548.3	7,733.5
Interagency Receipts	51015	0.0	400.5	490.3
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	321.0	359.0	359.0
Restricted Total		8,807.9	9,307.8	8,582.8
Total Estimated Revenues		8,807.9	9,307.8	8,582.8

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2009 Management Plan	2,191.9	8,548.3	759.5	11,499.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer authority to new Preparedness Component	0.0	-940.0	0.0	-940.0
-Transfer Administrative positions/funding from DSS/Administrative Support Services	0.4	7.7	88.5	96.6
-FY2010 Wage and Health Insurance Increases for Bargaining Units with Existing Agreements	23.9	117.5	1.3	142.7
FY2010 Governor	2,216.2	7,733.5	849.3	10,799.0

**Epidemiology
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor		
Full-time	55	56	Annual Salaries	3,737,832
Part-time	0	0	COLA	132,346
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	168,333
			Annual Benefits	2,000,262
			<i>Less 4.69% Vacancy Factor</i>	(283,073)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	55	56	Total Personal Services	5,755,700

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accountant III	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Assistant II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	4	0	0	0	4
Administrative Clerk III	9	0	0	0	9
Administrative Officer I	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Supervisor	2	0	0	0	2
Health Program Associate	4	0	0	0	4
Health Program Mgr I	1	0	0	0	1
Health Program Mgr II	5	0	0	0	5
Health Program Mgr III	3	0	0	0	3
Nurse Consultant I	1	0	0	0	1
Nurse Consultant II	7	0	0	0	7
Pharmacist	1	0	0	0	1
Project Coord	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health Nurse V	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health Spec I	4	0	0	0	4
Public Health Spec II	5	0	0	0	5
Staff Physician	3	0	0	0	3
Supply Technician II	1	0	0	0	1
Veterinary Epidemiologist	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	56	0	0	0	56