

Bill Hogan  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110601  
Juneau, AK 99811-0601  
www.hss.state.ak.us



## Media Update

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 2009

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

### May 12 Media Update

- **Has the H1N1 (swine flu) case from the *Serenade of the Seas* been confirmed?**  
Yes. The sample has been confirmed by Washington State, which has laboratories validated through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- **Is this considered a confirmed case from Alaska?**  
No. This case is being counted as a confirmed case from Washington State.
- **Are there any other reported cases of probable H1N1 on cruise ships in Alaska waters?**  
No. As of today, no new cases of probable H1N1 on cruise ships in Alaska waters have been reported.
- **How many cases of H1N1 (swine flu) have been reported in Alaska?**  
As of Tuesday, May 12, there are still no probable or confirmed cases of swine flu in Alaska. To date, no suspected influenza samples have been sent to the CDC in Atlanta for testing.

Immediate access to new information is available on our Web site (see below) or by signing up on our DHSS Twitter page at [http://twitter.com/Alaska\\_DHSS](http://twitter.com/Alaska_DHSS)

---

Our primary messages remain:

Health officials recommend following the same advice given for preventing seasonal influenza:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water.** Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- **Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.** Cough or sneeze into a tissue or inside your elbow. Then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- **Stay home if you are sick.** If you have flu symptoms such as fever, body aches and cough, stay home from work or school and avoid public activities for at least five days (seven for children) to prevent spreading the disease to others.

The department will continue to update its Web site at <http://www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov/> with state, national and international information about swine flu.

###