

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030
FAX: (907) 465-3068

May 15, 2007

Dear friends,

With many cruise ships expected in Alaska communities throughout the summer, as well as thousands of other tourists arriving in Alaska by plane and automobile, the potential is high that we will see cases of Norovirus and other infectious diseases this summer. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, is coordinating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other local, state and federal agencies to help our communities remain safe and healthy.

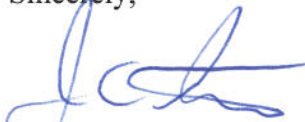
Enclosed is a packet of materials to help you and your business take steps to prevent the spread of Norovirus. Norovirus may be found at low levels throughout the year in some communities; however, the massive movement of people during the summer season makes it more likely that we could see a sudden outbreak.

Please take a few minutes to review these materials and put them into practice in your business location:

- "Summer brings tourists and health messages," Norovirus news release
- Norovirus frequently asked questions
- Brochure, "Norovirus, get the facts inside"
- Poster, "How to sanitize"
- Poster, "Wash your hands"

Good hand washing is the most important step for every individual to protect against Norovirus and other infectious diseases. I hope you will put these materials to work, and take a few simple precautions, during this busy tourist season.

Sincerely,



Jay C. Butler, MD
Director of Public Health, Alaska State Health
Officer and State Epidemiologist