



Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group Unified Command



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UNIFIED COMMAND ESTABLISHED TO RESPOND TO H1N1 AND RIVER FLOODING

CAMP DENALI, Alaska — The State of Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group has established a Unified Command (UC) led by the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Health and Social Services. The UC will address the H1N1 Influenza outbreak and break-up river flooding. The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) has raised its activation status to level three to reflect the need for a prompt response to any confirmed or probable H1N1 cases or seasonal river flooding. The SECC will be staffed seven days a week from 7am to 7pm until the Unified Command orders the SECC to stand down.

The Unified Command has established two branches. The Health branch continues to work from the DHSS Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to manage distribution of anti-viral medications and test suspected samples for H1N1. The DHSS public information officer is stationed at the DHSS EOC to quickly answer media inquiries and to provide accurate H1N1 influenza information.

There are currently no probable or confirmed cases in Alaska. The state has approximately 100,000 courses of antiviral medication on hand as part of the ongoing pandemic preparedness efforts. Ten-thousand additional courses have been distributed to health-care facilities statewide. Antivirals along with masks and other medical supplies are being pre-staged as part of the state's readiness response plan.

The River Watch Branch is monitoring river conditions from the SECC. The state has dispatched River Watch teams along the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers. The Yukon River Watch Team is assisting the City of Eagle with severe flooding. The Kuskokwim team is monitoring river conditions in the Aniak region and reports that flood waters are receding.

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