

State of Alaska
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Sarah Palin, Governor

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NEWS RELEASE



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Commissioner Jackson names new public health director

Dr. Jay Butler continues with Public Health in leadership role

(Juneau, Alaska) — Health and Social Services Commissioner Karleen Jackson today announced the appointment of Dr. Jay Butler as director of the Division of Public Health, effective immediately. Until his appointment Butler was serving as the Public Health Deputy Director for Science and Medicine, a position he has held since 2006.

“I’m pleased to have Dr. Butler continue his service to Alaska. He is a highly competent and skilled epidemiologist who will provide strong leadership in public health to help promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans,” Jackson said. “Jay brings to the department a strong connection to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This connection has helped significantly over the last year and a half in our preparedness planning for pandemic flu and other health issues.”

Butler came to the department in 2005 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, serving as the Chief of Epidemiology and State Epidemiologist. He replaces Dr. Richard Mandsager, who left in November 2006 to direct the Providence Children’s Hospital in Anchorage. Public Health Deputy Director Deb Erickson has served as acting director of Public Health until the director position was filled.