

State of Alaska
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Sarah Palin, Governor

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State virology laboratory

Overview

- The Department of Health and Social Services Virology laboratory in Fairbanks is the only viral laboratory in Alaska, providing statewide viral diagnostic services that aid in the diagnosis and prevention of human disease such as HIV, hepatitis, rabies, herpes and influenza (A and B).
- The lab is responsible for providing assistance and reference services to other laboratories in the state.
- The new lab will be connected through the basement and ground level to the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Biological Research and Diagnostics (BiRD) facility, and will also be connected through an underground pedestrian walkway to the future Biosciences Facility.
- The Department of Health and Social Services will occupy the ground level and upper level and UAF will occupy the basement level. The total square footage for the entire building is nearly 29,000 SF.
- The lab will expand its operations from a Level 2 lab to include "Bio-Safety Level 3" space.
- The lab currently runs approximately 45,000 tests per year.

Funding history

- The total estimated project cost is more than \$32 million.
- Construction is funded through \$24.2 million in Certificate of Participation funds proposed by the governor with Sen. Gary Wilken the most instrumental in gaining approval for the funding in fiscal 2006. An additional \$6.5 million was appropriated as a fiscal 2007 supplemental, with \$3.5 million from the general fund and \$3.0 million through interest earned from the Certificate of Participation funds. Key supporters included Reps. John Coghill, Mike Kelly and Kevin Meyer, and Sen. Joe Thomas.
- UAF has contributed \$1.5 million to the project. The money is part of a capital appropriation for fiscal 2008. The funds will be used to finish out the basement of the building.

Construction

- GHEMM Company, Inc. was awarded the construction contract for the new Fairbanks virology laboratory.
- The design was completed by Livingston Slone, Inc.
- Completion of the facility is expected by December 2009.

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