



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Public Health Nursing

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To our clients, communities, colleagues, and stakeholders:

As we are all aware, the State of Alaska is going through significant budget challenges. These challenges reverberate throughout all of State government, from school funding to highway funding to University funding. It affects State government at all levels. The State of Alaska Section of Public Health Nursing (SOPHN) is no exception.

Please call your local public health center for appointments, resources, and suggestions; if you or a family member is not part of the groups listed below, your local public health center staff members will work with you to link you to care options. We will continue with all other infectious disease services as currently practiced (TB, pertussis, etc.).

Specific changes for clinical individual services include:

- Immunizations for 29 years old and under
- Reproductive health for 29 years old and under
- STI screening for 29 years old and under, we will continue to offer EPT
- STI contact investigation for pregnant females only
- Child Health 6 years old and under, includes well child exams

For FY 2017, SOPHN will experience an approximately 20% budget reduction, and with last year's cuts will have experienced a total 25% budget reduction in two years. Because the primary product to the communities we operate in is public health services, and because public health services require public health staff, we will be experiencing staff reductions statewide and there will be reductions in some PHN offices and health centers.

Public Health Nursing makes up a significant portion of the Alaska health "safety net." PHN works to address these six public health priorities throughout the state: Preventing/treating sexually transmitted infections; addressing obesity; providing immunizations and preventing vaccine-preventable diseases; addressing emergency preparedness; preventing domestic/interpersonal violence; and the prevention, treatment, and case management of tuberculosis.

We recognize that our current budget situation is not ideal, but we also realize that current state budget realities are likely to continue. Thank you for all that you do for the community. Together we will work to provide the best health promotion and protection, with as strong a safety net possible. **Please call your local public health center for appointments and resources.**

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Linda K. Worman in blue ink.

Linda K. Worman, D.M., RN, Chief Nurse

For the latest updates on PHN services, visit our website: publichealthnursing.alaska.gov