

**Sean Parnell**

Governor

P.O. Box 110001

Juneau, AK 99811-0001

gov.state.ak.us



**STATE OF ALASKA**

JOINT RELEASE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release: Nov. 6, 2009

**Contact:** Greg Wilkinson, DHSS, (907) 382-7032, [gregory.wilkinson@alaska.gov](mailto:gregory.wilkinson@alaska.gov)  
Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM, (907) 428-7077, [jeremy.zidek@alaska.gov](mailto:jeremy.zidek@alaska.gov)

### **UPDATE: One additional Little Diomedé resident medevaced to Nome**

#### ***Medical team to return to Nome Friday***

(Anchorage, AK) — A young child from Little Diomedé was flown to Norton Sound Regional Hospital for evaluation late Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009. The child is stable and has been placed in patient housing.

The child tested negative for flu by rapid test and respiratory syncytial virus.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, the Alaska Army National Guard flew two individuals with flu-like symptoms from Little Diomedé, a remote island village of 130 in the Bering Strait, to Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome. One patient tested positive for flu during an initial rapid test.

The response was part of a coordinated effort by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Alaska Army National Guard, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and the Norton Sound Health Corporation, to provide medical support to help prevent and treat additional people with suspected H1N1 infection and to help prevent further transmission.

The medical team arrived in Diomedé on Thursday with 130 doses of inactivated H1N1 vaccine, enough to vaccinate everyone on the island, along with antivirals used in the treatment of H1N1.

A doctor and public health nurse remained on Little Diomedé, administering vaccine and seeing patients until past midnight on Thursday. The medical team is expected to be flown back to Nome Friday, Nov. 6.

No other residents reportedly need to be medevaced as of noon Friday.

###