



**For Immediate Release
20-028**

Governor Increases Novel Coronavirus Preparedness; Requests Funding for Temporary DHSS Positions

March 2, 2020 (Anchorage, AK) – Today, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy submitted a supplemental budget amendment to fund ten additional temporary positions within the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) for novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response. The supplemental budget would provide the Division of Public Health with five new public health nurses, three nurse epidemiologists, one microbiologist in Fairbanks to assist with lab testing, and one emergency manager to assist in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). These positions will be based statewide and will be able to travel as needed to rural communities to help monitor and screen for COVID-19.



