

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

No. 117, June 15, 2012

Circumpolar Climate Events Map Click [here](#) to view this month's Google map. You can also post a map comment [here](#), or visit our [archive](#) back to June 2009.

Rapid climate change threatens Minnesota moose *May 18, 2012*. Experts who have studied the Northwestern moose believe they are witnessing one of the most precipitous nonhunting declines of a major species in the modern era. According to a [report](#) released in December, moose are suffering from a variety of climate stressors including higher than average temperature, a long string of mild winters, and increasingly favorable conditions for ticks, parasites and other invasive species. [ClimateWire](#)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports on ticks in Alaska *June 2012*, Ticks, small blood-sucking arachnid parasites, are not well known in Alaska, but Alaskans should be on the lookout for ticks this summer. According to ADF&G veterinarian Kimberlee Beckmen, "one species found on squirrels and hares, is common in Alaska and native to the state, but those aren't the problem. It's the introduction of non-native, potentially disease carry ticks that's a concern." [Alaska Fish and Wildlife News](#)

Flu season late in Canada *June 11, 2012* Warm weather combined with flu symptoms has confused some Canadians who have contracted influenza. "It's crazy because it's sunny and I'm getting sick," said Rachel Musafiri as she sat outside the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Ottawa has been hit by the flu six weeks late and weaker than last year. [CBC](#)

Warming producing pop-up forests in Russian Arctic *June 3, 2012*. A new study published in [Natural Climate Change](#) reports that Western Siberia tundra shrubs are turning into small trees, with big implications. Even as insect infestations and other factors accompanying warming have led to the "browning" of boreal forests, the tundra appears to be greening with the development of pop-up forests, low tundra shrubs including willow and alder that have rapidly grown into small trees. [New York Times](#)

Video of the Week: protecting yourself from bedbugs Alaskans are accustomed to blood sucking insects, but not the kind that crawl out of a mattress. Infestations of bed bugs are increasingly frequent all across the country and yes, also all across Alaska. For those of us who travel, this 7 minute video provides a primer on how to recognize bedbugs and how to take precautions that can prevent you from being exposed or spreading bed bugs. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public health. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Regards – Mike

Michael Brubaker

[Center for Climate and Health](#)

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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