

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health

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Birch Pollen Sets Records in Fairbanks - Pollen counts by the Tanana Valley Clinic found the highest level of birch pollen ever recorded in Alaska. Pollen levels are considered high when they exceed 120 grains per cubic meter, but on May 13 they set a new record of 3,986 grains/m³, approaching the European world record set in Denmark in May of 2006. Tree pollen is an important springtime trigger for allergies. Pollen levels have been increasing in recent years possibly influenced by changing climate conditions including temperature. The northward expansion of birch, alder and other tree species may be increasing the number of people exposed to different types of pollen. The State of Alaska, Division of Public Health, is currently preparing a new [Epibulletin](#) to describe the events. [Click here](#), for more information on pollen levels in Fairbanks and Anchorage. > [Source: Dr. Jeffery Demain, Alaska Allergy Clinic](#)

Survey Describes High Rates of "Neglected Infections of Poverty" in the Arctic - The [New York Times](#) reported in January on an article published in the on-line Journal, *Neglected Tropical Diseases*, describing infectious diseases in the Circumpolar Arctic. "The high rates of neglected infection of poverty among indigenous populations living in Alaska, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic require further investigation, especially the identification and role of definitive and intermediate hosts in the transmission of toxoplasmosis, trichinellosis, and giardiasis. Given the high rates of toxoplasmosis a program of newborn screening should be implemented for these populations." > [view full article](#)

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Regards - Mike

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