



**Alaska Native  
Tribal Health Consortium**

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**Epidemic rates of HIV/AIDS among Alaska Natives, drive 2nd annual  
Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

The U.S. Senate and Anchorage Mayor's Office have issued proclamations proclaiming Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Tonight, a representative of the Governor's Office will issue a similar proclamation.

Where: Marriott Hotel, 820 W. 7th Avenue

When: 6 – 7:30 p.m. today (Thursday, March 20, 2008)

Who: Rhonda McBride, Rural Affairs Coordinator, Governor's Office

Michael Covone, HIV/AIDS Program Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Special guests: Nicole Colbert, Yup'ik, Miss World Eskimo-Indian Olympics  
Courtney Tarroll, Athabascan, Miss Alaska USA  
Kari Makanani Villarreal Levya, Miss Alaska America

Sarah Palin, Governor of the state of Alaska, has proclaimed Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Alaska. At 6:00 p.m. today, Rural Affairs Coordinator Rhonda McBride will present the proclamation at a reception commemorating Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The U.S. Senate and Anchorage Mayor have also issued proclamations.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium HIV/AIDS program staff and other health services agency representatives will be available to share information about the burden of this disease among Alaska Natives and American Indians.

As the proclamation states, HIV/AIDS potentially could increase dramatically in American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian communities, where people are battling high rates of sexually transmitted disease, poverty, social stigma, and high substance abuse rates.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic among Native people is a public health crisis that requires a focused national effort as well as tribal effort to bring attention to the prevention needs of Indigenous people.

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