

State distributes report on AIDS

JUNEAU — The 36-page Surgeon General's *Report on AIDS* will be sent this month to every registered voter in Alaska by the state Department of Health and Social Services.

"AIDS is not curable, but it is preventable," said Commissioner Myra Munson. "Education is our most potent weapon."

The mailing is a major component of the state's longterm effort to educate



AIDS

the public about this incurable disease which has already claimed the lives of 28 Alaskans and has been diagnosed in 45 other residents.

The \$54,000 distribution is funded

by a special appropriation from the Legislature.

"This administration is committed to protecting the public's health," said Gov. Steve Cowper, who advocated for AIDS education funds from the Legislature. "And we are committed to fighting AIDS — and fear of AIDS — through education. The Surgeon General's report is compelling

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reading."

AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a fatal disease which has become the nation's foremost health threat.

According to the U.S. Public Health Service, 179,000 Americans will have died from AIDS by 1991. Associated costs are expected to exceed \$8 billion.

The report, authored by U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, presents accurate and up-to-date information about AIDS and how the virus is — and is not — transmitted. It details the measures individuals can take for personal protection and for stopping the spread of the disease.

The department expected to mail 210,000 copies of the report, as well as providing another 10,000 copies for workplace education programs being conducted around the state.
