

# Bethel Is Site for PHS Health Study

(From Bethel City News)

The City of Bethel has been chosen as the location for a U.S. Public Health Service study into the causes of respiratory infection among children under the ages of 15.

The program, which will begin in September, will involve the children of 100 Bethel families in a year-long study of nose and throat cultures to determine what kinds of viruses are responsible for colds, pneumonia, influenza, sore throats and bronchitis.

The program is being sponsored by the Arctic Health Research Center, the Alaska Native Health Area Office and the Communicable Disease Center of Atlanta, Georgia.

The lab identification of the viruses will be conducted in Anchorage and Kansas City while the bacterial identification will be done at the Alaska Native Hospital here in Bethel.

Many studies done in different areas of the U.S. and abroad have established that over 80 kinds of viruses can cause respiratory infections in humans, although only 12 viruses are responsible for

the majority of such respiratory infections.

However, no similar studies have ever been done among pre-school and school age children in areas of the world where the climate is like that of Bethel.

Therefore, it will be important to learn what the patterns of vital infection are here, so that new vaccines can be developed to provide immunity against the many respiratory infections known to occur in areas such as Bethel.

The results of this study will be of benefit not only to residents of Bethel, but to all people everywhere.