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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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OCEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE TETANUS BOOSTERS AND LITERATURE AS THEY BEGIN THE NEXT WAVE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS AT ORTLEY BEACH

“The Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) is reaching out to the Ocean County community, once again, in its continued response to Superstorm Sandy,” said Ocean County Freeholder Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the Ocean County Board of Health. He continued, “The Health Department has been extremely involved since day one in the recovery and response efforts after the storm. In addition to its many response efforts, the OCHD has been coordinating mold programs for residents and building and code enforcement officers and they have kept their website up-to-date with important information for residents in addition to the latest “Sandy” news and efforts. Also, the OCHD Environmental Division has been working diligently as part of the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program, where water at every bathing beach in Ocean County, is tested for bacteria content. Besides testing the waters, inspections have been made of every beach. The health and safety of our residents and visitors has evolved to a higher level with the aftermath of the storm.”

Daniel E. Regenye, OCHD Public Health Coordinator, said, “The OCHD Outreach Vehicle will be stationed at the A&P on Rt. 35 South, Ortley Beach (Toms River Township), this Friday through Sunday, June 7-9, from 10am to 2pm. Visitors will receive an information packet with copies of *Mold Guidelines for New Jersey Residents*, RX Drop-off locations in Ocean County, West Nile Virus information, Swimming Guidelines, OCHD Clinic Services, information on *Hope and Healing* and information from the Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs, etc. The OCHD will also be offering Tetanus boosters in the form of Tdap. It is extremely important that people be vaccinated against Tetanus before they begin or continue to clean up debris.”

Regenye added, “Staff at the Health Department continue to monitor the after effects of “Sandy” throughout the county and have been working closely with each municipality to address unmet needs. In planning this outreach effort, we have noticed that many homes are just opening up for the first time this season and many have not been opened at all. In addition, we are receiving numerous calls regarding mold and confusion on what to do about removal, etc. Increased mosquito breeding environments are another concern of the Health Department due to the change in topography, remaining debris, and drainage issues. We continue to look at the questions we receive and design our outreach to meet these needs.”

He continued, “Another issue is that we are aware that many of our food establishments on the upper barrier island have not reopened. One of the roles of our Environmental Inspectors is to work with and advise food establishment owners on what needs to be done to help them open their facility. We have put together information for our food establishments and continue to

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reach out to them to give them this information and also offer our assistance. We encourage food vendors to call us if they need any guidance.ö

You can find updated öSandyö information on the Ocean County Health Department website at www.ochd.org or follow the Health Department on Twitter@OCpublichealth.

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