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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS FREE ORIENTATION
Organizations may Enroll to Provide Medicines at their Sites during a Public Health Emergency**

YPSILANTI, Mich., April 21, 2010 — Washtenaw County Public Health invites organizations and businesses to a workshop about dispensing emergency medications in conjunction with Public Health. Two dates are available: Wednesday, April 28th or Thursday, May 13th. There is no charge, but attendees are asked to reserve a space by contacting Susan Cerniglia at ringlers@ewashtenaw.org or 734-544-6759. Participating organizations and businesses do not need medical staff to participate.

“Building partnerships with area organizations prior to a public health emergency will allow us to reach all area residents faster and more easily – if a disease outbreak or other health emergency required immediate treatment for everyone,” says Dr. Diana Torres-Burgos, Medical Director for Washtenaw County Public Health. In many cases, organizations and businesses are well equipped to provide services to their own clients, residents or employees, continued Dr. Torres-Burgos. Organizations that enroll will be able to provide accessible services at their own facilities and reduce the number of residents visiting public dispensing sites for treatment during a large-scale emergency.

The scheduled workshops will provide an overview of Public Health’s emergency response plans and discuss how organizations can develop their own emergency dispensing plans. Lunch will be provided. All attendees will have the opportunity to enroll with Public Health to provide emergency medications to their own constituents. Attending an orientation sessions will not obligate organizations to enroll.

For more information about dispensing emergency medicines with Public Health, visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>, email ringlers@ewashtenaw.org or call 734-544-6759.

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