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**Tuberculosis Screening at Mount Adams' Building and Restaurant Shows Minimal Transmission**

**Cincinnati (July 13, 2007)** Tuberculosis screening on 143 residents and employees of a Mount Adams residential building and accompanying restaurant has revealed 9 positive skin tests, which indicate a latent form of the disease that is not transmissible.

Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services' Tuberculosis Control Center identified 169 residents and employees of Highland Towers and the Celestial Restaurant who might have been exposed to a building employee who was diagnosed with active TB in early June. So far, 85 percent have been screened. The others have been instructed to undergo testing but have not yet been screened.

The rate of positive skin tests – 6 percent – is consistent with the 3 percent to 6 percent of the general population of Cincinnati that would have positive skin tests.

“We’ve concluded at this time that there was minimal transmission of tuberculosis germs amongst persons who had regular exposure to this individual,” said Lynn Kilbane, a registered nurse and the Clinic Coordinator.

The employee with active TB has not worked since being diagnosed. He has received the normal antibiotic treatment for the disease and is responding properly. He first sought medical treatment in March; however, he was misdiagnosed and was not identified to have the disease until early June.

So far, he is the only one with an active form of the disease that can be transmitted.

Hamilton County has about 25 to 30 cases of active tuberculosis a year. Tuberculosis is caused by a germ that is passed to others through the air when a person with an active case of the disease coughs, talks, laughs or breathes. Generally, frequent prolonged contact is needed to become infected with tuberculosis germs.

The signs and symptoms of active pulmonary TB are: fever, cough, chills, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain and coughing up blood. A person with active TB disease generally has two or more symptoms and has had those symptoms for more than three weeks.

Anyone who is at risk of exposure should have a TB screening. A positive skin test does not mean the person has active TB. Those who test positive must have a chest x-ray to determine if they have an active case of the disease.

Kilbane said because of the way the disease is spread – frequent, prolonged contact -- and the fact the building had an excellent air handling system that there was little risk of transmission.

“If you just had dinner at the Celestial, there is really nothing to worry about,” she said. “The building and the restaurant are perfectly safe.”

**About Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services**

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, adult protection, child care, tuberculosis control, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands of residents each year. The Department of Job and Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.