



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Month-long Mercury Thermometer Collection Event Kicks Off Saturday, May 1 at Mercy General Hospital

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Catholic Healthcare West/Mercy will collect silver mercury fever thermometers in exchange for a new free digital thermometer beginning Saturday, May 1.

WHAT: *Mercury Free May Kick-off Thermometer Exchange Event*, targeting the collection of silver mercury thermometers in exchange for a free new digital thermometer. The month-long collection will involve eight CHW/Mercy sites in Sacramento County.

WHO: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and their *Be Mercury Free* program, in partnership with CHW/Mercy.

WHERE: **Mercy General Hospital**
4001 J Street, Sacramento

WHEN/HOW: **Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.***
To turn in your old silver mercury fever thermometers, please place them in a sandwich-type plastic bag for safe collection.

*Media representatives are invited to show up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for optimal visuals.

WHY: Mercury, an element often found in old thermometers, can be harmful to the environment and human health if improperly disposed of. SRCSD and CHW/Mercy encourage Sacramento residents to *Be Mercury Free* by recycling their mercury fever thermometers during *Mercury Free May*. One new FREE digital thermometer will be given to each household that turns in silver mercury fever thermometers.

SRCSD's *Be Mercury Free* public education campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about mercury pollution. The program provides information on how to identify mercury-containing products and replace them with mercury-free alternatives, and encourages proper disposal techniques. CHW and the local Mercy hospitals are collaborating with SRCSD on Mercury Free May as part of CHW's commitment to a healthier community and a cleaner environment.

For more information, call (916) 875-6644 or visit www.bemercuryfree.net.

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