



CALENDAR RELEASE

April 19, 2004

Contact: Heleana Faria
Communications & Media Officer
(916) 876-6088
fariah@saccounty.net

**Sacramento County Launches Month-Long Effort
To Collect Silver Mercury Fever Thermometers**

During May, exchange your silver mercury fever thermometer for a new free digital thermometer at eight Catholic Healthcare West/Mercy locations throughout Sacramento County.

SACRAMENTO, CA – Mercury, an element often found in old thermometers, can be harmful to the environment and human health if improperly disposed of. Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) and Catholic Healthcare West/Mercy (CHW/Mercy) encourage Sacramento residents to *Be Mercury Free* by recycling their mercury fever thermometers during a month-long collection event. During this event one new FREE digital thermometer will be given to each household that turns in silver mercury fever thermometers.

WHAT: *Mercury Free May* Thermometer Exchange Event

WHEN/HOW: Collection activities will take place during the month of May, Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding Memorial Day, May 31st. To turn in your old silver mercury fever thermometer, please place it in a sandwich-type plastic bag for safe collection.

WHERE: The Information Desk at:
Mercy General Hospital
4001 J Street, Sacramento

Mercy Hospital of Folsom
1650 Creekside Drive, Folsom

Mercy San Juan Medical Center
6501 Coyle Avenue, Carmichael

Methodist Hospital
7500 Hospital Drive, Sacramento

The Mercy Laboratories suite at:
MedClinic Downtown
3160 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento

MedClinic Roseville
406 ½ Sunrise Avenue, Roseville

MedClinic San Juan
6555 Coyle Avenue, Carmichael

MedClinic Timberlake
8120 Timberlake Way, Sacramento

WHY: *Mercury Free May* is part of SRCSD's *Be Mercury Free* public education campaign 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. For more information, call (916) 875-6644 or visit www.bemercuryfree.net. 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.

