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N E W S

For Immediate Release
July 29, 2004

Office of Public Affairs • (614) 644-8562
Jay Carey, Director

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES **TEMPORARY CLOSING OF VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE**

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today announced it will temporarily close its Office of Vital Statistics while moving to a new location.

The Office of Vital Statistics will be closed to the public for seven business days starting Monday, Aug. 23, with the last appointment at 3 p.m. It will reopen Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 7:45 a.m.

“ODH understands the inconvenience this move may cause,” said J. Nick Baird, M.D., director of the Ohio Department of Health. “Moving 25 million records is a huge undertaking. However, this move to a new location will result in great improvements for the safety and security of these important and historic records.”

The new location is 225 Nielston Ave., in the Columbus downtown warehouse district, but all mail requests will continue to go to the Ohio Department of Health, Vital Statistics - P. O. Box 15098, Columbus OH 43215-0098

The new location has two fireproof, climate controlled vaults and a dry-chemical fire-suppression system that will not damage records if activated. The current facility lacks adequate fire-suppression and temperature control systems.

The new location is designed to increase efficiency; use state-of-the-art archival methods; and improve and increase storage so more bound volumes of records will fit in the same amount of space.

The agency strongly encourages parents and individuals to plan ahead and submit any requests for records as soon as possible, or if convenient, visit the appropriate local health department in the district of the birth to obtain copies of birth certificates. This is especially important to anyone who might need to apply for a passport or enroll a child in kindergarten or sports.

“The move and temporary closure will not affect any of the other 138 local registrars that serve the state – they will remain open during their normal hours,” said Dr. Sandra McGuire, ODH’s chief of health statistics.

The new location will feature better and more convenient access for the public and increased parking. The Office of Vital Statistics is also working on other updates such as: digitizing all records, modernizing record keeping to meet federal standards; centralizing the registration system; providing statewide issuance of certificates and moving to a paperless registration system.