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For immediate release
Feb. 23, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING ON SMOKING BAN ENFORCEMENT RULES SLATED FOR FEB. 27

ODH: Ohioans' input essential to equitable rules

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will host a public hearing to get Ohioans' input about draft enforcement rules for the indoor smoking ban that took effect Dec. 7, 2006.

The hearing will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 27 in the auditorium of the William Green Building, 30 W. Spring St. in Columbus. Interested parties will be afforded the opportunity to testify and provide **comments about the proposed rules**. Members of the public who plan on testifying should pre-register by contacting Kaye Norton via mail (Ohio Department of Health, 246 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43215); by phone (614-466-4882) or by e-mail (kaye.norton@odh.ohio.gov). Written comments may be mailed to the above address or faxed to 614-728-7813 before 9 a.m. Feb. 27.

Ohioans can view the proposed rules online at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/A512F9E8FDB7496DBFBE1AF0C1F93D9A/3701-52-01through-09.pdf> or request a copy by contacting Norton directly.

Ohio's indoor smoking ban took effect Dec. 7 and although ODH cannot levy fines until the rules are adopted, businesses must do three things to comply: prohibit smoking; remove ashtrays; and post no-smoking signs with the toll-free enforcement number, 1-866-559-OHIO (6446).

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Editor's Note: Media interested in covering this hearing are not required to pre-register.

Contact: Ohio Department of Health, Office of Public Affairs, 614-644-8562.