



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 15, 2008**

**CONTACT: CDC Division of Media Relations**  
**770-488-0700**

### **FEDERAL AGENCY INVITES RESIDENTS TO PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSIONS** *CDC to Discuss Results of Formaldehyde Level Tests in Trailers*

ATLANTA- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host eight public availability sessions in Mississippi to explain the preliminary findings from testing for formaldehyde levels in occupied travel trailers, park models, and mobile homes supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for emergency housing in the Gulf Coast Region.

Residents of FEMA-supplied units and concerned individuals are invited to attend a session that is convenient for them. The sessions will begin with 30-minute opening presentation by a CDC scientist. Following the presentation, CDC scientists and members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps will be available to speak one-on-one with residents about health concerns related to living in the trailers. FEMA representatives will also be available to discuss housing options.

Sessions are scheduled in Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Long Beach, Moss Point, Pass Christian and Pearlinton:

Mon, Mar 3, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Pearlington Recovery Center  
6098 First Ave.  
Pearlington, Miss.

Mon, Mar 3, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

St. Rose de Lima  
301 S. Necaize Ave.  
Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Tue, Mar 4, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church  
216 Saucier Ave.  
Pass Christian, Miss.

Tue, Mar 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

West Harrison Civic Center  
4670 Espy Ave.  
Long Beach, Miss.

Wed, Mar 5, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Episcopal Church of The Redeemer  
610 Water St.  
Biloxi, Miss.

Wed, Mar 5, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Episcopal Church of The Redeemer  
610 Water St.  
Biloxi, Miss.

Thu, Mar 6, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Moss Point Riverfront Center  
4400 Denny St.  
Moss Point, Miss.

Thu, Mar 6, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Moss Point Riverfront Center  
4400 Denny St.  
Moss Point, Miss.

On February 14, CDC released preliminary results of a scientifically established random sample of 519 travel trailers and mobile homes tested between Dec. 21, 2007 and Jan. 23, 2008 showed average levels of formaldehyde in all units of about 77 parts per billion (ppb). Long-term exposure to levels in this range can be linked to an increased risk of cancer, and as levels rise above this range, there can also be a risk of respiratory illness. These levels are higher than expected in indoor air, where levels are commonly in the range of 10-20 ppb. Levels measured ranged from 3 ppb to 590 ppb.

The testing came as a result of a request from FEMA for assistance in answering questions related to indoor air quality and health in order to answer concerns raised by residents and community members.

Formaldehyde is a colorless gas that is naturally produced in the human body in small amounts, and is a common chemical in the environment. Long-term exposure to high levels of formaldehyde can be linked to an increased risk of cancer and respiratory illness.

Community members who have questions about the upcoming public availability sessions may contact CDC Health Communication Specialist La Freta Dalton at 770-488-0711 or call CDC's toll-free health information hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

CDC, a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, promotes health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

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**A one-hour media availability session will immediately precede each public availability session. Members of the news media can request an interview by calling CDC Media Relations at 404-639-3286.**