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TO: Local Media Outlets

FROM: Tracy Metcalfe, Health Educator

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RE: **Bay County Health Department Begins Mercury Collections**

RUN: Immediate Release

The Bay County Health Department (BCHD) is now collecting items that contain Mercury now through September 2014. BCHD will accept the following items:

- Non-electronic thermostats
- Thermometers that contain the silver-colored liquid
- Gauges (barometers, manometers, blood pressure and vacuum gauges with silver colored liquid)
- Switches
- Relays and sensor's (appliances, farm equipment, float, tilt and pressure switches)
- Dental amalgam
- Hygrometers and hydrometers
- Elemental mercury (silver-colored liquid metal)

If you are a resident of Bay County, you must call the Health Department at 989-895-4006 to schedule the collection for your mercury items. Please note that thermometers that are red in color do not contain mercury and are not considered hazardous waste. BCHD will only accept mercury items that are first secured by being placed in two ziptop plastic bags and then placed in a crush-proof sealed container, such as a coffee can, plastic margarine tub, or plastic beverage bottle.

Please call the BCHD before taking mercury instruments for disposal, and never leave items if the health department is closed. For more information contact the Environmental Health Department, (989) 895-4006 or visit our web page at www.baycounty-mi.gov/health.