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NEWSRELEASE

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Seminar Will Address Mold Issues in the Home

The Oneida County Health Department, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), will hold a seminar to educate the public on the nature and causes of mold in the home, its impact on health, and the proper methods of remediation, Phyllis D. Ellis, Oneida County Director of Health, announced today.

The symposium, part of the Oneida County Health Department's *Emergency Preparedness Program*, is slated for **Thursday, October 17th** beginning at **6:00 pm** at the Whitesboro Fire Department, and will feature a presentation by Richard Jones, a Public Health Specialist with The New York State Health Department. In addition, a representative of the Herkimer-Oneida Organizations Active in Disaster (HOOAD), will be in attendance to provide recovery assistance for any flood victims who may still have unmet needs. The program is free and open to the public. Those wishing to attend are asked to register on the County's web site at ocgov.net prior to the event.

"Our objective in holding this event is to better equip our residents to deal with mold problems, whether they result from infra-structure leakage, humidity resulting from poor ventilation or a natural disaster that has a community-wide impact," County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. said. He added, *"I recognize the responsibility of county government to provide the necessary tools and direct our citizens to available resources should a future disaster impact our community."*

Mayor, Raymond Daviau, Jr., was eager to bring the symposium to the Village of Whitesboro since parts of that community were hard hit by the flooding that occurred earlier this year.

"Through their efforts, our residents have made a remarkable recovery. However, the concern that some areas could again be impacted by some future weather event or other disaster is ever present," Daviau said. He continued, *"I appreciate the County's interest in bringing this program to our residents so that they can learn to mitigate damage to their homes caused by mold in the aftermath of flooding."*

A "question and answer" period will follow Mr. Jones' presentation. A snack and refreshments will be available, and free giveaways are planned.