To: All Local Media Contacts

From: Kelly Conley, MS, RD, CLE
Director of Personal Health Services

RE: National Nurses Week

Release Date: May 1, 2009

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK “2009” CELEBRATES NURSES' BUILDING A HEALTHY AMERICA

The Central Michigan District Health Department would like to recognize all of the Nurses in our local communities, in Michigan and most importantly those who work at the Central Michigan District Health Department. The work of America's 2.9 million registered nurses to save lives and to maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year's National Nurses Week, celebrated annually May 6-12 throughout the United States. This year, the American Nurses Association has selected "Nurses: Building a Healthy America" as the theme for 2009. The ANA supports and encourages National Nurses Week recognition programs through the state and district nurses associations, other specialty nursing organizations, educational facilities, and independent health care companies and institutions.

Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. The work and support of our Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners at the Central Michigan District Health Department help keep our communities safe and healthy. They do this daily by providing immunizations, family planning services, nutritional education and healthy foods through the Women, Infants and Children’s Program, many other health care services and support for medical issues, and the prevention and education to decrease infectious diseases. There are also many nurses in our communities in hospitals, long term care facilities, home care agencies, private physician offices, colleges, and schools that also support the mission of Building a Healthy America.

Traditionally, National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. The nursing profession is constantly meeting the growing health care needs of American society. Please remember to say thank you this week to the nurses that you know. They help you’re your local community, Michigan and America a safer and healthier place to live. Central Michigan District Health Department’s Motto is “Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities” and the staff at CMDHD would like to thank nurses for making this motto a reality every day here in Central Michigan.

###