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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District and Local Restaurants Take a Bite Out of Smoking

(Las Vegas, Nev. – July 12, 1999) – In an effort to create awareness of the issues of tobacco control in public places and the effects of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) the Clark County Health District is partnering with select local restaurants for a smoke-free restaurant campaign the weekend of July 24-25.

The campaign theme is “Take a Bite Out of Smoking” and participating restaurants include: The Country Inn Restaurants, Harbor Place Seafood Restaurant, Mar Y Tierra Mexican Restaurant, Panini at South Rainbow, The Egg & I, Dragon Sushi and Ricardo’s at E. Tropicana and W. Flamingo. These restaurants will be completely smoke-free for the weekend and each establishment will have on-site activities and giveaways promoting the campaign.

Through this campaign, the Health District hopes to educate the public about the effects of second hand smoke. Each year in the United States exposure to ETS contributes 3,000 deaths due to lung cancer, 35,000 to 62,000 deaths due to heart disease and 1,900 to 2,700 deaths due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In fact, virtually everyone faces

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some risk of harm from exposure to ETS. This assessment is based on the fact that 88 percent of non-tobacco users in a CDC study were found with measurable levels of cotinine, a chemical the body metabolizes from nicotine.

Particularly at risk are people whose occupational setting requires that they work in an environment where second hand smoke is prevalent. Groups at high risk include casino employees and restaurant and bar workers. Studies conducted by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) provide evidence that eliminating smoking in the workplace has immediate beneficial effects on adult respiratory health, not to mention the likely reduction in the long-term risk of lung cancer and cardiovascular disease.

For more information on the "Take a Bite Out of Smoking Campaign," or for additional information on ETS, call CCHD's Health Education Department at 383-1217.

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