



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 13, 2010

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Air pollution action day declared for August 13, 2010

**** Interview Opportunity ****

WHAT: Illinois EPA had declared ORANGE air pollution levels throughout the Chicago region today. ORANGE air quality levels are deemed “unhealthy for sensitive groups” including children, the elderly, and people with lung disease. Chicago, Cook County and the collar counties are expected to record ORANGE air quality levels today.

WHY: Hot, sunny, calm weather leads to the formation of unhealthy levels ozone (smog) and fine particle (soot) pollution in the greater Chicago area. The entire Chicago area is designated as not meeting federal health standards for ozone set in 1997. U.S. EPA set a revised standard in 2008 and proposed an even tighter ozone standard in January 2010 because of health concerns.

Air pollution action days are unhealthy for people with lung disease and can cause asthma attacks and other lung problems. People who have lung disease are encouraged to limit strenuous activity and stay in air conditioned environments. Everyone is encouraged to limit polluting activity.

WHEN: Friday, August 13, 2010 (will accommodate interviews throughout the day)

WHERE: Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago,
1440 West Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607

VISUALS / INTERVIEWS:

Joel Africk – President and CEO

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

Available on site or by phone: (312) 628-0220

Ashley Collins – Environmental Health Programs Manger

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

Available on site or by phone: (312) 628-0202

Ruchi S. Gupta, MD –

Associate Professor of Pediatrics Institute for Healthcare Studies

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and
Children’s Memorial Hospital Smith Child Health Research Program

Available by phone: (312) 523-3553

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Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today the Association fights lung disease and promotes healthy lungs by supporting research, advocacy, and educational efforts on behalf of individuals and families affected by lung cancer, asthma, COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and other lung diseases. For more information, visit www.lungchicago.org.