

ANDREW J. SPANO, Westchester County Executive
JOSHUA LIPSMAN, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of Health
SUSAN TOLCHIN, Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2006

**NO CASES IN WESTCHESTER OF E. COLI INFECTION LINKED TO TACO BELL
Health Department Continuing to Investigate**

In light of growing concerns about E. coli infection linked with Taco Bell restaurants, the Westchester County Department of Health today announced that to date there are no confirmed cases of E. coli O157:H7 infection in Westchester County associated with eating at Taco Bell.

The Health Department will continue to follow up on public complaints of illness related to the consumption of Taco Bell products. Residents who believe that they may be sick as a result of eating at Taco Bell should call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000.

The E. coli O157:H7 bacterium causes diarrhea that is often bloody and accompanied by abdominal cramps. Fever is usually absent or mild. The illness typically resolves within a week. The symptoms often appear about three days after exposure, but can range from one to nine days. Most people recover without specific treatment in five to 10 days.

For additional information about E. coli O157:H7, residents can call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000 or visit the Health Department's website at www.westchestergov.com/health.

-30-