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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CASE OF SALMONELLA INFECTION IN WESTCHESTER LINKED TO TAINTED PEANUT BUTTER

The Westchester County Department of Health today received notification from the New York State Department of Health that a young female resident of Westchester County who became ill several weeks ago has been confirmed to have contracted Salmonella through the consumption of tainted peanut butter. To protect her privacy, the Department is not releasing information that might identify the girl. This is the first case of Salmonella linked to tainted peanut butter in Westchester County.

“The Westchester case of Salmonella was identified in a child who has since recovered and did not require hospitalization,” noted Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Commissioner of Health. “Residents are again reminded not to eat any Peter Pan peanut butter at all or Great Value peanut butter with a product code beginning with 2111. If you have any of these products, you should throw them away. If you cannot find a number on the jar lid or are unsure, the safest thing to do is to discard the product,” he said.

Individuals who have recently eaten the affected Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter and who have experienced any symptoms of Salmonella infection should contact their health care provider immediately. Individuals who have eaten the affected peanut butter within the last week and who do not feel sick most likely will not get sick. However, persons who begin to have any symptoms of Salmonella should contact their health care providers.

Most people infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without treatment. However, in some people, the diarrhea may be so severe that the person needs to be hospitalized. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness.

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Salmonella Peanut Butter Case P.2

Public health officials in multiple states are currently investigating a large multistate outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to both Peter Pan peanut butter and Great Value peanut butter. As of February 27th, 370 persons infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella from 42 states have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control.

The Westchester County Health Department will continue to investigate public complaints of illness related to the consumption of Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter. Residents who believe that they may be sick as a result of consuming these products should call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000.

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

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