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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department and Emergency Services Bureau Host Special Screening for Tenth Annual Observance of National Preparedness Month

Brewster, NY- Emergency preparedness is serious business, but not usually on the top of everyone's To-Do lists. To encourage individuals and families to think further and plan ahead during Emergency Preparedness Month, the Putnam County Department of Health and the Bureau of Emergency Services are hosting a free, special screening of the nationally released movie "Contagion" on Friday, September 20, at 6:30 pm. A brief "question-&-answer" session with experts from both agencies will be held after the film, being shown in the auditorium at the Putnam County Emergency Services Building, 112 Old Route 6 in Carmel.

"We wanted to host a fun, engaging event about this serious topic," says Allen Beals, MD, Commissioner of Health. "Being equipped and prepared to face an emergency takes planning and effort, and residents need support from one another and their government both in preparation and during times of emergency," Dr. Beals continues. "While the film is a fictional dramatization, it is not unrealistic. Health department personnel are constantly on alert and drill to prepare for any new and emerging illnesses, or weather-related emergencies, that have the ability impact the local community and beyond."

Admission is free and doors open at 6:30 pm. Reservations are encouraged. RSVP to 845-808-1390, x 43125, or to putnamhealth@putnamcountyny.gov, by September 16, to guarantee

your seat. Walk-ins will be accepted if space permits. Food demos and free emergency food samples will be offered before the movie, along with free popcorn.

The medical thriller depicts the lives of individuals and officials caught up in a race against time to develop a vaccine against a mysterious and lethal virus spreading around the globe. Matt Damon and Kate Winslet star, along with Laurence Fishburne, who plays the director of the Centers for Disease Control. National Preparedness Month (NPM), established in response to the events of September 11, is held annually to encourage Americans to better prepare for disasters or emergencies in their communities. For more information, visit: FEMA's www.ready.gov, or the Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/beready/>

The Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of the Putnam County community, made up of nearly 100,000 residents. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.putnamcountyny.gov/health>; or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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