



Office of the U.S. Surgeon General

Press Release

Contact: Damon Thompson or Cynthia Bennett (202) 205-1842

SURGEON GENERAL TO HOST PRESS CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA TO BRING HIV/AIDS IMPACT HOME TO U.S.

Press Conference with Leading Federal Health Officials to be held on July 9, 2000

Durban, South Africa, July 2000 -- Surgeon General David Satcher will host a July 9 press conference with leading Federal officials on the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on the United States, especially among communities of color. The press conference, which will be a precursor to week long events during the XIII International AIDS Conference, will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Inzinga Room of the Durban Hilton at 12-14 Walnut Rd. The event will provide the media, HIV/AIDS researchers, practitioners, and consumers with an opportunity to interact with leading Federal health officials as they reveal important information on the latest medical research and treatment advances and discuss ground-breaking initiatives on access to care concerning HIV/AIDS. "It is essential to engage in a conversation on the impact of HIV/AIDS throughout the world and in the U.S., where the epidemic continues to grow," Satcher said.

Joining Satcher will be: Ms. Sandra Thurman, Director, The White House Office of National AIDS Policy; Dr. Eric Goosby, Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Policy (OHAP); Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Joseph O'Neill, Director, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Associate Administrator for AIDS, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Dr. Helene Gayle, Director, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHSTP); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

At a time when HIV/AIDS is taking a tragic toll on populations around the globe, the U.S. is experiencing a crisis of epidemic proportions among communities of color. From July 1998 to June 1999 alone, 46% of AIDS cases reported were among African American adolescents/adults and 20% were among Hispanic adolescents/adults. To address the staggering statistics and raise national awareness of the problem, Dr. Satcher will encourage the Federal delegation traveling to South Africa to participate in discussions exploring both the global outlook on HIV/AIDS and on ways to prevent the increasing domestic problem. "The HIV/AIDS epidemic is not only a devastating global problem, but also a domestic problem, and we must continue to use every means available to educate, motivate and mobilize communities to fight HIV/AIDS," Satcher said. This press conference will help increase national awareness and consciousness of HIV/AIDS because it is not over – AIDS continues to affect everyone in all of our communities at home." The press conference will be webcast on <http://aids.webmd.com> along with other events hosted by the Surgeon General during the International AIDS Conference.

A Video News Release about the press conference will be fed twice on Monday, July 10, 2000!

Feed Times: 7:00-7:30 AM (EDT) AND 1:00-1:30 PM (EDT)
Coordinates: C-Band, Telstar 6/ Transponder 9
Downlink Freq: 3880 MHz (V)
Audio Freq: 6.2/6.8 MHz

For further information about the press conference or to schedule an interview with the Surgeon General or other Federal officials, please contact Damon Thompson or Cynthia Bennett, (202) 205-1842. For technical information regarding the VNR feeds, contact Julia Bushyhead, (202) 973-2060.