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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **INVITATION TO COVER**

## Agriculture Secretary and Department of Health Assistant Commissioner to Tour University Hospital Auxiliary's Farmers' Market Will Tour as Part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WIC

- **WHO:** Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher and Department of Health Assistant Commissioner Gloria Rodriguez
- **WHAT:** Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher and Department of Health Assistant Commissioner Gloria Rodriguez will tour the University Hospital Auxiliary's Farmers' Market
- **WHEN:** Tuesday, July 29, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
- WHERE: University Hospital Auxiliary's Farmers Market 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between Bergen and Norfolk Streets) Newark, NJ 07103
- **WHY:** The tour is part of a week-long series of events to promote the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The events will promote WIC benefits such as vouchers for fresh produce at farmers' markets, and nutrition and breastfeeding classes.

"For 40 years, WIC has supported moms by helping them give their children a healthy start," said Health Commissioner Mary E. O'Dowd. "WIC promotes good

nutrition and helps participants adopt healthy eating habits that last a lifetime."

According to the New Jersey Department of Health, WIC provides nutritious food to women, infants and children. More than 170,000 New Jersey women and children receive monthly vouchers for food that can be redeemed in more than 900 grocery stores statewide for healthy foods including milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, 100% juice, fruit and vegetables. New Jersey was one of the first 10 states in the nation to administer the WIC program.

A complete list of weeklong events can be found here: http://www.nj.gov/health/news/2014/approved/20140725a.html

**University Hospital** is one of the nation's leading academic medical centers. Located at University Heights in Newark, New Jersey, University Hospital is a principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a regional resource for advanced services across many medical specialties. For more information about University Hospital, please visit www.uhnj.org.

**The Rutgers New Jersey Medical School** (NJMS) WIC program is located at 65 Bergen Street, Newark, NJ. You may contact the WIC office by calling 973-972-3416.

Founded in 1954, NJMS is the oldest school of medicine in the state. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and graduates approximately 170 physicians a year. In addition to providing the MD degree, the school offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 22 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, The University Hospital. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region's "top doctors." Home to the nation's oldest student-run clinic, New Jersey Medical School hosts more than 50 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. For more information please visit: <u>njms.rutgers.edu</u>