



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **TUBERCULOSIS CASE REPORTED AT TAFT MIDDLE SCHOOL** ***HHSA, School Officials Notifying Students, Faculty and Staff; Testing Offered***

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Taft Middle School (San Diego) officials to notify classmates, faculty and staff who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB). A student who attended classes from Nov. 1, 2007 to March 13, 2008 has been diagnosed with TB.

“It is important for the public to know TB is in our community,” says Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “TB is spread through the air, when a person infected with TB coughs or sneezes. It takes prolonged contact with a TB patient to get it.”

HHSA TB Control and Taft Middle School staff have identified approximately 200 people, including students, faculty and staff that were potentially exposed and are sending letters to students and parents today. Testing will be conducted on campus the week of March 31.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. Symptoms of active TB include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss. Most people who are exposed to TB do not develop the disease.

Individuals with no medical provider, or anyone who would like more information, may call the County TB Control Program at (619) 692-8621.

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