



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

**Mission Bay High School Contact:** Jack Brandais (619) 725-5570

## **MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HAS TB**

*Classmates, Faculty and Staff Are Notified*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Mission Bay High School officials to notify classmates, faculty and staff who may have been exposed to tuberculosis (TB) between Feb. 4, 2008 and March 13, 2008.

“To contract tuberculosis, there must be prolonged, sustained exposure,” says Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “It’s not easy to catch, but it is prevalent in our community and we want the public to be informed about TB, in hopes of keeping the disease from spreading.”

“Parents can be assured that it is safe to send their children to school,” said Cheryl Seelos, Principal of the school. “The health of our students is one of our highest concerns.”

School officials have identified approximately 200 students, teachers and staff that were potentially exposed from Feb. 4 to March 13, and are sending letters to students and parents today. Students who may have been exposed to the disease will receive testing on campus.

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.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. During 2007, there were 280 cases of TB reported in San Diego County and 38 cases to date this year.

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**Editor’s Note: Dr. Kathy Moser is available for interviews from until 4 p.m. Please call 619-685-2239 to schedule an interview.**