



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

May 15, 2008

HHSA CONTACT: José A. Álvarez (619) 515-6635
SCHOOL CONTACT: Lillian Leopold (619) 691-5578

TUBERCULOSIS CASE REPORTED AT SAN YSIDRO HIGH SCHOOL *HHSA, School Officials Notifying Students, Faculty and Staff*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Sweetwater Union High School District officials to notify classmates, faculty and staff who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB) at San Ysidro High School. A student who attended classes from Jan. 8 to May 7, 2008 has been diagnosed with TB.

“Tuberculosis continues to be a health concern for the community,” says Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “Public Health Services continually monitors community health issues and is committed to educating the public about possible exposures and prevention methods.”

HHSA TB Control and San Ysidro High School officials have identified approximately 200 people, including students, faculty and staff that were potentially exposed. Letters informing parents of the possible exposure were distributed yesterday. The parents of an additional 16 students, as well as a teacher, at Montgomery High School are also being notified of their children’s possible exposure to TB. The Montgomery students and teacher attended a spring intersession class at the San Ysidro High campus. TB testing at San Ysidro High School will take place the week of May 19 and at Montgomery High School the week of May 26.

“I want to assure everyone that we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of our students, staff and community,” said San Ysidro High Principal Hector Espinoza. “We are working closely with the County’s Public Health Services and district personnel to meet the needs of our stakeholders and follow all mandated procedures.”

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. In 2008 to date, there have been 61 cases of TB.

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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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 207 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
May 15, 2008



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

May 7, 2008

CONTACT: Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

School Contact: Jack Brandais (619) 725-5570

TUBERCULOSIS CASE REPORTED AT SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL *HHSA, School Officials Notifying Students, Faculty and Staff*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with San Diego High School (San Diego Unified School District) International Studies Campus officials to notify classmates, faculty and staff who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB). A student who attended classes from Jan. 7 to April 30, 2008 has been diagnosed with TB.

"TB is in our community, and it is curable," says Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "Tuberculosis is spread through the air during prolonged contact with a person with TB. If you have symptoms of TB, please contact your health provider."

HHSA TB Control and San Diego High School staff have identified approximately 190 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 May 19.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. In 2008 to date, there have been 59 cases of TB.

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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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION:
May 7, 2008

Contact: Jose Alvarez
(619) 515-6635

SAFEGUARDING SAN DIEGANS FROM TUBERCULOSIS *County Program Helps Patients Recover and Curbs Spread of Disease*

In any given year, hundreds of tuberculosis cases are reported to the County of San Diego Tuberculosis Control Program. An airborne disease, tuberculosis (TB) can spread to others who have prolonged contact with someone suffering from TB disease.

One way to control the spread is to make sure everyone diagnosed with TB is on the right medicine and remains on them until cured. To do this, the County offers the Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) Program. In DOT, public health nurses and outreach workers monitor patients regularly to make sure they are taking their medications as directed.

“We would go to your home, or to your work, wherever it’s convenient for you, and actually observe you taking your medicine,” said Kathleen Moser, M.D., Chief, County TB Control. “Just to give you support, make sure you’re taking (all your pills), and make sure you’re taking them the right way.”

The DOT program safeguards public health by ensuring patients complete their treatment and become non-infectious as rapidly as possible. It is also intended to help prevent TB transmission and keep the disease from becoming drug-resistant. DOT is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the program proven to result in higher rates of treatment completion.

The service is without charge and is provided to all physicians and their patients throughout the County. DOT starts with a visit from a public health nurse who brings the patient’s TB medication in a locked box that remains with the patient. The nurse also answers questions about the disease, treatment and medication.

Next, a trained outreach worker visits the patient to make sure the affected individual takes all the prescribed medications during the visit. The visits continue until the patient is cured of TB, which can take six to 24 months.

“We don’t want (patients) to stop taking their medication and reactivate the disease,” said Maricela Fregoso, a County TB outreach worker. “Then it could become resistant to the medication and it could become worse.”

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

Directly Observed Therapy—Page 2

Jason (no last name) was diagnosed with tuberculosis and recently completed treatment for the disease, which included home isolation.

“You never think you’ll get TB until you actually do. It does not discriminate,” he said. “As long as you take your pills every day and make sure you keep up with it, you can get rid of it.”

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. In 2008 to date, there have been 59 cases of TB.

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.

People who are experiencing the above symptoms of TB are strongly encouraged to contact their health provider.

For more information about the Directly Observed Therapy Program, please call the HHS Tuberculosis Control Program at (619) 692-5668 or visit www.sandiegotbcontrol.org.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

May 1, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

School Contact: Jack Brandais (619) 725-5570

TUBERCULOSIS CASE REPORTED AT HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL *HHSA, School Officials Notifying Students, Faculty and Staff*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Horace Mann Middle School (San Diego Unified School District) officials to notify classmates, faculty and staff who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB). A student who attended classes from Nov. 1, 2007 to April 23, 2008 has been diagnosed with TB.

“It is important for people to know TB is in our community,” says Dean Sidelinger, M.D., M.S.Ed, Deputy County Public Health Officer. “Tuberculosis is spread through the air during prolonged contact with a person with TB. If you have symptoms of TB, please contact your health provider.”

HHSA TB Control and Horace Mann Middle School staff have identified approximately 120 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 May 6.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. In 2008 to date, there have been 51 cases of TB.

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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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
April 14, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239
Vista High School Contact: Larry White, principal
(760) 726- 5611 ext. 71001

VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HAS TB *Classmates, Faculty and Staff Are Notified*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Vista High School officials to notify classmates, faculty and staff who may have been exposed to tuberculosis (TB) between March 1 - March 28.

“Tuberculosis is in our community,” says Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “Fortunately, it is curable. We want the public to be informed about TB, in hopes of keeping the disease from spreading.”

“Student safety is our number one concern at Vista High. Parents can be assured that it is safe to send their children to school,” said Larry White, principal of Vista High School. “We are working closely with the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency in addressing this matter.”

School officials have identified approximately 120 students, teachers and staff that were potentially exposed and have issued letters to students and parents. 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 46 cases to date this year.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

April 3, 2008

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.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 24, 2008

HHSA Contact: José A. Álvarez (619) 515-6635

School Contact: Jack Brandais (619) 725-5570

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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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 20, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

Life Sera Center Contact: (619) 298-4011

PLASMA COLLECTION CENTER TB IS MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT STRAIN *Strain is Treatable; HHSa, Center Working to Notify Clients, Staff*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa) is working with Life Sera Plasma Collection Center officials to notify clients and staff who may have been exposed to a multi-drug resistant strain of tuberculosis (TB). This case, at Life Sera Plasma Center in Hillcrest, was reported earlier this month by HHSa.

An individual who was at the Plasma Center (6th Ave location) from July 1, 2007 to Feb. 18, 2008, Sunday – Friday, has been confirmed to have a strain of TB that is resistant to two of the most commonly used drugs to treat the illness, Isoniazid and Rifampin. This form of TB is generally referred to as multi-drug resistant TB or MDR-TB.

“The treatment regimen for MDR-TB takes longer, because patients must take special drugs to cure the disease,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “We urge patients with TB to finish all of their TB medicine. Not completing the treatment regimen can result in the strain becoming multi-drug resistant.”

“Life Sera Plasma Collection Center is cooperating to the fullest extent possible with HHSa,” said a Life Sera spokesperson. “The Center strives to protect the health and welfare of its clients and staff, and supports the efforts of HHSa to promote public health.”

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of TB in San Diego County and 28 have been reported so far in 2008. Each year, 1 – 2 percent of these overall cases are multi-drug resistant. A TB skin test is generally the first step in evaluating whether a person has been affected.

Clients are urged to see their personal physician. Individuals with no medical provider, or anyone who would like more information, may call the County TB Control Program at (619) 692-8621.

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.

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Dr. Kathy Moser is available for interviews until 3:30 p.m. Call (619) 685-2239 for arrangements.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 14, 2008

HHS CONTACT: José A. Álvarez (619) 515-6635

SWC CONTACT: Nevada Smith (619) 482-6564

TUBERCULOSIS CASE REPORTED AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE *HHS and College Notify Students and Offer Testing*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and Southwestern College have notified students and an instructor who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis. A student who attended one course at the college from Jan. 18 to Feb. 14 has been diagnosed with tuberculosis.

“We worked closely with the college to notify all who may have been exposed,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer.

HHS Tuberculosis Control Program and Southwestern College staff identified 49 students and one instructor that were potentially exposed. Since the student did not visit the library, cafeteria, or student lounge, there is no risk of exposure to others at the college. The student is receiving care and there is no longer any risk of exposure to the community.

“Only the classmates and the instructor are at any risk of exposure. All have been informed and have been offered tuberculosis skin testing,” added Wooten.

Symptoms of active tuberculosis include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss. Most people who are exposed to tuberculosis do not develop the disease.

For more information on tuberculosis, contact HHS's Tuberculosis Control Program at (619) 692-8621.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. In 2006, there were 315 cases.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
March 3, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

PLASMA COLLECTION CENTER REPORTS TB CASE *HHSA and Center Working to Notify Clients, Staff*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Life Sera Plasma Collection Center officials to notify clients and staff who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB). An individual who was at the 2850 6th Ave., San Diego location from July 1, 2007 to Feb. 18, 2008 has been diagnosed with TB.

“We are working closely with the center to notify those who may have been exposed,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer.

The center has identified staff and hundreds of clients that were potentially exposed. Employees will receive testing from the company. Clients are urged to see their personal physician.

“Life Sera Plasma Collection Center is cooperating to the fullest extent possible with HHSA,” said Jeanette Porretta, a representative of Life Sera. “The Center strives to protect the health and welfare of its clients and staff, and supports the efforts of HHSA to promote public health.”

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. This year there have been 12 cases. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of TB in San Diego County. In 2006, there were 315 cases.

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