



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **MESA COLLEGE STUDENT HAS TB**

*County Health and Human Services Agency, School Officials Working Together to Notify Classmates and Faculty*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Mesa College officials to alert classmates and faculty who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB). A student who attended summer school class from June 20 to July 9, 2007 has been diagnosed with TB. The exposure is limited to students attending a math class held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

“We are working closely with Mesa College officials, who have responded promptly to notify those who may have been exposed,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “TB is a common, but deadly respiratory infectious disease if left untreated. It primarily attacks the lungs, but other parts of the body can also be infected.”

School officials have identified approximately 40 individuals known to have at least 16 hours or more, cumulatively, of exposure. Students will be notified through e-mail accounts, and by mail.

Testing for the students will be offered on campus next week and will be a joint effort between County public health and campus health services staff.

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 2006, there were 315 total cases of TB in San Diego County.

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