



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

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the peace
since 1850"*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
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INMATE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY JAIL HAS TB

*HHSA and County Sheriff's Department Working Together
to Notify Former Detainees of Possible Exposure*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working closely with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to notify individuals released from custody who were exposed to an inmate who was recently diagnosed with active tuberculosis.

The inmate was in the San Diego County Central Jail and South Bay Detention facility.

"The Sheriff's Department has identified 708 inmates that may have been exposed prior to release from custody," said Dr. Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., San Diego County Public Health Officer. Sheriff's department officials are working to provide testing for the close contacts that remain in custody.

Individuals who were in the San Diego County Central Jail from August 4, 2007 to August 6, 2007 and the San Diego County South Bay Detention facility from August 6, 2007 to August 7, 2007 should consult their physician.

"While incarcerated, the health and safety of these individuals is a responsibility we take very seriously," commented San Diego County Sheriff Bill Kolender. "Working closely with the Health and Human Services Agency ensures that when these situations arise, they will be handled as expeditiously and efficiently as possible."

Symptoms of active TB include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss. While people who are exposed to TB do not always develop the disease, those with depressed or compromised immune systems may be at greater risk of developing TB.

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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