



This is an official
DHEC Health Advisory

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Infectious Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB) in a Conway High School Individual

Summary

On March 9, 2015 DHEC became aware of an individual at Conway High School in Horry County with suspected TB disease. Tests performed by the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories on March 10, 2015 have confirmed the diagnosis of TB disease in this individual.

Currently, DHEC is performing a comprehensive contact investigation to identify and test other persons who may have been exposed to the infected individual.

Guidance for Clinicians

While DHEC is actively providing testing for persons exposed to this individual, it is possible someone may present to your facility with concerns related to this situation. Therefore, this HAN is to alert clinicians to this case and to provide information regarding TB symptoms, testing and reporting requirements to DHEC.

Clinicians are advised to consider tuberculosis in anyone who presents with symptoms of TB, including cough lasting 3 weeks or longer, chest pain, coughing up blood or sputum, fatigue, weight loss, loss of appetite, chills, fever, and night sweats.

Who should get tested for TB

- Persons with ongoing or prolonged contact to someone who has infectious TB
- Persons with HIV infection or other immunosuppressive conditions
- Persons with symptoms consistent with TB infection
- Persons from a country with a high incidence of TB (most countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Russia)
- U.S. residents who live or work in an area where TB disease is more common (e.g. homeless shelters, prisons)
- Persons with illegal drug use

TB Screening/Testing

Health care providers can consult with DHEC about TB screening recommendations for individuals who have not been notified by DHEC of the need for testing but who remain concerned about TB exposure. DHEC is providing screening tests for all individuals for whom testing was recommended as part of this investigation. DHEC will charge for testing if a provider requests TB screening for an individual who is not defined as being at risk of exposure.

Reporting of Cases

- DHEC is requesting that clinicians report all patients who are screened for TB at their facility due to this situation to allow DHEC to track any potentially positive contacts. Please report these cases to the TB Control Division at (803) 898-0558.
- As required by law, all cases of suspect and confirmed tuberculosis (TB) are reportable to DHEC. A suspect case of TB is a person whom a health care provider believes, after weighing signs, symptoms, and/or laboratory evidence, to probably have TB.

Resources for additional information:

1. Controlling Tuberculosis in the United States
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5412.pdf>
2. Guidelines for the Investigation of Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5415.pdf>
3. CDC website for TB Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/tb>

DHEC contact information for reportable disease and reporting requirements:

South Carolina law requires the reporting of diseases and conditions, including Tuberculosis, to your state or local public health department (SC Code of Laws Section 44-29-10 and SC Regulation 61- 20).

The DHEC 2015 List of Reportable Conditions is available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/reportables.htm>

Federal HIPAA privacy rules allow disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).