

# HEALTH ALERT



**TO:** Physicians and other health care providers

**Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the office of:

**Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH**  
Health Officer  
Clark County Public Health  
Phone: (360) 397-8412

## Alert categories:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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## HEALTH ALERT

May 11, 2018

### Active case of tuberculosis at Skyview High School in Clark County likely to prompt inquiries to local health care providers



#### *Summary*

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Clark County Public Health (CCPH) was recently notified of a case of active tuberculosis at Skyview High School in Vancouver. Although the risk of transmission is low, in an abundance of caution, we are screening potential contacts at the school and recommending further evaluation for anyone with positive test results. We are working with Vancouver Public Schools to notify all parents at Skyview High School by email and letter about the situation and to address potential questions. This may result in calls to local health care providers by parents with concerns about TB.

Please see the enclosed notification letter sent to parents and staff this week.

#### *Testing for those who may have had close contact with the TB case*

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CCPH will notify all adults or parents of children who may have had prolonged close contact with the case that they or their children need TB testing. In coordination with school administration, CCPH will offer free TB testing on May 24 and 25 at Skyview High School.

Some parents may choose to take their children to their own health care providers for TB testing, in which case the parents are responsible for the cost of testing. We will need documentation of the test results from the providers. Please fax test results to 360.397.8080 (secure fax line).

The date of last exposure at Skyview High School is May 1. First round testing could take place between May 1 and June 25, 2018. Second round testing should take place after June 26 (eight weeks after last potential exposure).

#### *Additional information*

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If you have any questions, please contact Clark County Public Health, Communicable Disease Program:

- Phone (360) 397.8182
- Fax (360) 397.8080

For more information on TB and testing visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/professionalttools.htm>.

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CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

[www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov)

PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

1601 E Fourth Plain Blvd, Bldg 17  
PO Box 9825  
Vancouver, WA 98666-8825  
360.397.8182 / 360.397.8080 fax

May 11, 2018

Parents and staff  
Skyview High School  
Vancouver, WA

Dear parent or school staff member,

We are writing to inform you about potential exposure to a case of active tuberculosis (TB) at Skyview High School. Appropriate measures have already been taken to prevent any further exposure. This letter is to provide you with information about Clark County Public Health's evaluation, which is underway, to determine which students and staff may have been potentially exposed and the need for follow-up screening.

TB is usually spread through close, prolonged contact with someone who is infectious. While the spread of TB in a school setting is possible, it is not common. This is not a TB outbreak. Based on our evaluation, we believe the risk to students and staff at Skyview High School is low, and we currently have no evidence of any other cases at the school.

The next step in our evaluation is to provide TB screening to students and staff who are identified as potential close contacts. Clark County Public Health is working closely with the school administration to identify those individuals. This screening will help identify anyone who has been infected with the TB germ. Because TB disease does not develop immediately after being infected, treating people who are infected with TB early can prevent them from developing active TB disease. We will contact you directly if testing for you or your child is recommended. We do not recommend that all students and staff members be tested at this time.

Although the name of the individual is confidential to protect the person's privacy, we want you to know that this individual is receiving appropriate treatment. We ask that you also keep confidential any specific information that you may learn regarding the person with TB.

### **What you can do:**

Be aware of the signs and symptoms of active TB disease (for more information about TB, see the enclosed fact sheet on TB from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Staff or parents with concerns about symptoms consistent with TB disease,



**CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON**

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or those who have any questions, should contact Clark County Public Health's Communicable Disease staff at 360.397.8182.

Thank you for your partnership,

Clark County Public Health  
Communicable Disease Program