



Health **Alert** Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

Phone 303/220-9200 • Fax 303/741-4173 • www.tchd.org

Follow us on Twitter @TCHDHealth and @TCHDEmergency

John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 3

Subject: **Advisory - Screen high-risk individuals for TB**

Message ID: 11/1/2016 9:15:00 AM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **Tri-County Health Department is forwarding you the attached HAN. You may have already received this broadcast if you are on the CDPHE distribution list, however, we wanted to ensure you did not miss this important information. No response is required.**

=====

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

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; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 10312016 10:20

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory - Screen high-risk individuals for TB

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / EDs / ID Physicians

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Health Public Health Agencies - please forward to healthcare providers

HEALTH ADVISORY | Screen high-risk individuals for TB | Oct. 31, 2016

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- Preliminary data show that so far in 2016, three people in Colorado have died from TB-related complications. Fifteen Coloradans died of the disease between 2011 and 2015.
- TB is curable and preventable but can be missed. Healthcare providers must screen, test and engage in care for those at risk.
- 85 to 90 percent of active TB disease in Colorado comes from people with TB infection progression rather than airborne pulmonary transmission.
- It is estimated 158,000 Coloradans are infected with TB but are not yet sick. Approximately 16,000 of them may progress to TB disease in their lifetimes.
- Colorado risk factors include extensive time in or being born in certain countries, compromised immune systems (including diabetes), and close contact with a person with active pulmonary TB.
- Providers can use Colorado's new Adult Tuberculosis Risk Assessment:
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DC_TB-CO-Risk-Assessment.pdf

Background information

Tuberculosis is the No. 1 cause of infectious disease death and the leading cause of preventable death in the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released the 2016 "Global Tuberculosis Report" showing the TB epidemic is worse than previously known, with more than 10 million people falling sick last year.

The number of TB cases in both the U.S. and Colorado mirror the 2015 increase in cases globally.

Colorado-specific risk factors for TB infection include:

- Having been born, lived, or extensively traveled in a country outside western and northern Europe, the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Immunocompromising conditions including HIV, diabetes, organ transplants, using of TNF-alpha inhibitors, head or neck cancer, or being 5 years or younger.
- Being in close contact with a person with active pulmonary TB disease.

Recommendations / guidance

A recently-released U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation calls for preventive screening for TB infection in high-risk individuals, particularly individuals who have traveled or lived in areas where there is ongoing community transmission of TB.

CDC, USPSTF and CDPHE recommend screening at-risk persons for TB infection and placing those positive for TB infection (after ruling out active TB disease) on appropriate TB infection treatment. Providers can use Colorado's new Adult Tuberculosis Risk Assessment, available on the CDPHE TB Program website, below.

Providers who suspect someone has active TB disease should call the Denver Metro TB Clinic, (303) 602-7240, or the Colorado Tuberculosis Program, (303) 692-2656.

For more information

CDPHE's TB Program website: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/tuberculosis>

