



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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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 UPDATE

Number of pages including cover: 3

Subject: **Update - TB Investigation at Aurora Hills Middle School**

Message ID: 2/28/2019 6:30:00 PM

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.**

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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>



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 02282019 15:20

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Update -TB investigation at Aurora Hills Middle School

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

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies - for your situational awareness; forward to health care providers in your jurisdiction at your discretion.

HEALTH UPDATE | TB investigation at Aurora Hills Middle School | Feb. 28, 2019

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- The Denver Metro TB Program at Denver Public Health in collaboration with Tri-County Health Department, Aurora Hills Middle School, and Aurora Public Schools has been conducting a TB contact investigation at Aurora Hills Middle School.
- Health officials have determined that TB transmission occurred at Aurora Hills Middle School during the 2018 fall semester.
- At this time, there is **no** ongoing risk for TB exposure at the school.
- All students and staff who were at Aurora Hills Middle School during the fall semester are recommended to get tested for TB. Free TB skin testing will be done at the Aurora Hills Middle School March 4th and 5th with readings on the 6th and 7th.
- If you are concerned that a patient might have active TB or have questions about TB, call the Denver Metro TB Program (303-602-7240) and ask to speak to one of the providers on call.

Background information

The Denver Metro TB Program at Denver Public Health has confirmed that TB exposure occurred at Aurora Hills Middle School in Aurora during the fall semester of 2018 and that some people at the school were infected. No one has been diagnosed with active TB so there is no ongoing risk, and people are safe to attend school and school events as usual. There is also no risk to the larger community related to this investigation. Denver Public Health has recommended testing of all students and staff who spent at least two weeks at Aurora Hills Middle School during the fall semester.

The Denver Metro TB Program is working with Tri-County Health Department, Aurora Hills Middle School, and Aurora Public Schools to provide TB skin testing at the school during the week of March 4th.

In general, testing for **TB infection** is conducted with a tuberculin skin test (TST, also called a PPD) or an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA). **Active TB** cannot be diagnosed with these tests alone. People who have a positive test for TB infection must have a symptom review and chest radiograph (CXR). Common symptoms for active TB are chronic cough, fever, night sweats, and unexplained weight loss lasting three weeks or more. If you are concerned a patient might have active TB, call the Denver Metro TB Program (303-602-7240).

Exposure to TB results from prolonged contact with a person who has active TB. Active TB is diagnosed in 60-90 people in Colorado each year. An estimated 150,000 Coloradans have (asymptomatic) latent TB infection (LTBI); LTBI is not contagious and contact with a person who has LTBI is not considered an exposure to TB.

Recommendations / guidance

- Providers should be prepared to receive questions or requests for TB testing from people associated with Aurora Hills Middle School.
- Any person with a positive IGRA or TST should be screened for symptoms of TB and have chest radiography performed to evaluate for active TB.
- If you are concerned a patient might have active TB, call the Denver Metro TB Program (303-602-7240) promptly and ask to speak to a provider.
- If patients have general questions about TB, please direct them to call CO-HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911. For additional questions that CO-HELP can't answer, refer to the Denver Metro TB Program at 303-602-7240.

More information

- Denver Public Health TB FAQ:
<http://www.denverpublichealth.org/clinics-services/tuberculosis/resources-education/facts>
- Annual report for TB in Colorado: www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/tb
- CDC's TB page: www.cdc.gov/tb/

