



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 ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 3

Subject: **Advisory - TB investigation at Metro State University**

Message ID: 3/25/2019 4:15:00 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: 03252019 11:00

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory -TB investigation at Metro State University campus

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

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies - for your situational awareness; LPHAs in Front Range counties are encouraged to forward to health care providers in your jurisdiction

HEALTH Advisory | TB investigation at Metro State University | March 25, 2019

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- The Denver Metro TB Program at Denver Public Health is conducting a tuberculosis (TB) contact investigation at Metro State University in Denver.
- At this time there is no ongoing risk for TB exposure at the school.
- Individuals who were potentially exposed and need testing have been contacted directly.
- People who were not exposed but are interested in getting tested are recommended to contact their primary care provider.
- 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 recently learned that some students and faculty at Metro State University in Denver may have come in contact with a person who is sick with TB. There is no ongoing risk of TB exposure at Metro State University. People are safe to attend school and other events at Metro State University. All individuals who were potentially exposed have been contacted directly by the Denver Metro TB Program to arrange testing at the Denver Metro TB Program Clinic (<http://www.denverpublichealth.org/clinics-services/tuberculosis>).

TB transmission results from prolonged contact with a person with active TB. 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). An estimated 150,000 Coloradans have (asymptomatic) latent TB infection (LTBI); LTBI is not contagious and contact with a person with LTBI is not considered an exposure to TB.

Active TB disease 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 disease are chronic cough, fever,

night sweats, and unexplained weight loss lasting three weeks or more. Active TB is diagnosed in 60-90 people in Colorado each year.

Recommendations / guidance

- Providers should be prepared to answer questions or receive requests for TB testing from people associated with Metro State University.
 - 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 disease.
 - If you are concerned a patient might have active TB disease, call the Denver Metro TB Program (303-602-7240) promptly, and ask to speak to a provider.
 - If patients have general questions about TB, 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.
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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/

