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August 15, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Health Investigates Possible TB Exposure at Local High School

Approximately 190 students, faculty, and staff to be tested

EL PASO, Texas – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health is currently investigating a possible Tuberculosis (TB) exposure involving approximately 190 individuals at Canutillo High School. Public health officials will be sending letters to parents of those children who may have had close contact with someone with active TB. As a precaution, the Department of Public Health is recommending that these individuals be screened for TB through a blood draw test.

"Our TB prevention team investigates this disease throughout the year. What makes this different is the number of possible exposures and the number of tests we need to perform," said Robert Resendes, Public Health Director. "We are extremely appreciative of the cooperation of the school administration and the support we have received from the Canutillo Independent School District."

Parents who receive a letter from the Department of Public Health and have additional questions may call the City of El Paso Department of Public Health TB Program at 915-212-6609.

Media may schedule interviews for this afternoon between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Health located at 5115 El Paso Drive.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial illness acquired through breathing in infected droplets from the cough or sneeze of a person with active TB. Tuberculosis is not easily transmitted. The likelihood of transmission increases with length of exposure to the cough/sneeze of someone with active TB. TB can be treated with special antibiotics. Additional information about TB can be found at www.EPHealth.com by clicking TB Control under "Services".

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