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UPDATE: Students at Indio High School tested for tuberculosis Tuesday

About 100 Indio High School students who were potentially exposed to tuberculosis will be returning Thursday to see whether they test positive for possible infection.

The testing was done Tuesday (Nov. 15) after an Indio High School student was recently diagnosed with active tuberculosis, prompting Riverside County health officials to send letters out to students and staff members who might have been exposed. Those who received the notification had the option of being tested by their own health care provider.

The student is receiving treatment and is expected to recover, although the individual will not return to school until a medical clearance is issued. The student is not being identified due to confidentiality requirements.

If the skin test reads positive, the individual will get a chest x-ray and follow up with an appropriate provider. The x-ray will help determine whether an individual might simply have a latent TB infection, which is not contagious, rather than active TB.

No testing is needed for those who did not receive the notification letter because they were not considered to be at risk for exposure.

Tuberculosis is a disease spread through the air during prolonged, repeated and close contact with an individual who is infected with active tuberculosis. People may contract TB when breathing air exhaled by someone who is sick with TB. When left untreated, TB can result in complications that can be serious. TB is not spread by shaking hands, sharing food or drink, or via bed linens or toilet

seats. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. A person with inactive (latent) TB cannot spread it to others.