



**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Moreno Valley Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent
Department of Student Services**

Date:

Released by: Jose Arballo Jr., Public Information Officer
Office 951-358-5599 Cell: (951) 712-3705
jarballo@rivcocha.org

Contact: Barbara Cole, RN, PHN, MSN
Director – Disease Control
951-358-5107

Moreno Valley School District

Contact: Ken Schmidt
Director of Student Services
951-571-7630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health officials investigate tuberculosis exposure at a local high school

The Riverside County Health Department has received notification that a former student at Vista del Lago High School in Moreno Valley has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB). The student, who has not been at school since the last week of January, is being treated and is expected to make a full recovery.

This is the first case of TB involving a school setting identified in Riverside County this year. Sixty-eight (68) TB cases were reported countywide in 2011. Eleven (11) cases have been reported thus far in 2012.

The Department of Public Health is working closely with school officials to identify students and staff members who were in close and prolonged contact with the student. Those who may have been exposed will be receiving a letter from the Public Health Department recommending they be screened for TB infection. The screening consists of a TB skin test, given on the person's arm, and is followed by a chest x-ray if the skin test is positive.

"The risk of transmission is very low, however, TB testing is being recommended as a precautionary measure as it is better to err on the side of caution," said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, interim public health officer.

Tuberculosis is an air-borne disease that is spread by close and prolonged contact with an individual who has active tuberculosis. People can become infected with TB by breathing air exhaled by someone who is sick with the illness. Left untreated, TB can result in serious

complications, including death. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. A person with inactive (latent) TB cannot spread the TB bacteria to others.

Anyone concerned about TB can contact their health care provider or Public Health at 951-358-5107. For additional information about tuberculosis, visit the Department of Public Health website www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org