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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rancho Springs Medical Center and County of Riverside Department of Public Health
Address Tuberculosis Exposure**

An employee at Rancho Springs Medical Center in Murrieta has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis, and the hospital is working with county health officials to contact those who might have been exposed to the illness.

The individual is being treated and is expected to make a full recovery.

The County of Riverside Department of Public Health is working with hospital officials to identify patients and staff who may have been potentially exposed and will be advising that they be screened for TB. The screening consists of a TB skin test, followed by a chest x-ray if the test is positive.

“The risk of transmission is very low,” said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, County Health Officer. “TB testing is being recommended as a precautionary measure.”

No other employee has tested positive for the illness. All hospital employees are required to be tested annually for TB. Rancho Springs Medical Center self-reported the illness to the California Department of Public Health-Licensing and Certification.

Tuberculosis is a disease spread by close 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 TB. Left untreated, TB can result in serious complications. Common symptoms include a productive cough, unexplained weight loss, fever, and feeling tired. 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 the Public Health Department Disease Control at (951) 358-5107. For additional information about tuberculosis, visit the Department of Public Health's website www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org