

Contact:

Sheila Murphy
(805) 677-5274

Sheila.murphy@ventura.org

June 21, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**TB Exposure Alert**

[Ventura County, Calif.] --- Ventura County Public Health has identified an individual at Rio Vista Middle School in Oxnard, who had contagious tuberculosis. In conjunction with school officials and staff, the Department is in the process of evaluating exposed students, staff and faculty. The most common way to become infected with TB germs is by spending a lot of time with a person who has active TB in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

There is a difference between TB infection and TB disease. People with TB disease are sick from the germs that are *active* in their body and they may cough a lot, feel weak, have a fever, lose weight, cough up blood, or sweat a lot at night. People with TB disease are capable of giving the infection to others. People with TB infection (without disease) have the TB germ in their body, but they are not sick because the germ is *inactive*. They cannot spread the germ to others. About one out of ten people with TB infection become sick with TB disease at some time in their life. TB can be treated and cured.

Although it may be a new experience for the parents, students, and school staff involved, communicable disease investigation is a regular activity for Ventura County Public Health. The current investigation under way is a classic example of tuberculosis case investigation and is an important step in helping prevent the spread of TB. All students and staff who test positive for infection will receive further testing and medication to ensure that they do not develop the active form of TB disease.

There will be an informational meeting, including a question and answer period, for parents, school staff and the public on Monday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Rio Vista Middle School, 3050 Thames River Drive, Oxnard. The Public Health Department has established a telephone line for anyone with questions regarding tuberculosis exposure. Callers can leave their name, number and question at **(805) 385-9444** and a Department representative will contact them.

A related case of TB disease has been found to be a member of 24 Hour Fitness at The Collection in Oxnard. This individual visited the 24 Hour Fitness on a number of occasions between March 12 and June 4, 2018. 24 Hour Fitness is reviewing its records to identify members who were at the club at the same time as the case. Members who may have had a significant exposure to the TB case will be contacted by 24 Hour Fitness with details about testing.

24 Hour Fitness is cooperating with Ventura County Public Health to assure that its members are protected. Ventura County Public Health wants to assure the public that it is safe to visit the 24 Hour Fitness at The Collection in Oxnard. Questions for the Health Department from members of the club should be left at (805) 385-9444 and will be responded to within 24 hours.

#