

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
LARRY ROMERO, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA ORDAZ, DISTRICT 6
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

July 14, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

Preliminary Information from Two Separate Investigations Reveal New Positive TB Test Results

EL PASO, Texas – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health announced today that additional cases of Tuberculosis (TB) have been identified as a part of two separate TB investigations involving Frank Macias Elementary and a halfway house in central El Paso. Last week the department began the second phase of testing at the school in Horizon City. The following information comes from the testing involving the **elementary school**:

Cohort #2 Investigation (latest numbers)

Tested to Date: 15 students
76 staff

Results to date: 73 negative
13 positive
5 pending

Positivity rate: 13/86 = 15.1%

Cohort #1 Investigation (updated)

Tested to Date: 158 students
8 staff

Results to date: 126 negative
38 positive
2 pending

Positivity rate: 38/164 = 23.2%

The next step for those who have tested positive is to perform chest x-rays and sputum smears or cultures to determine if they have a latent form of TB (TB infection) or have active TB (TB disease). In addition, the Department will continue to attempt contacting students who have been identified as possibly exposed and staff who have not been tested.

"We need to stress that very young children are very unlikely to spread this disease and that only adults with active disease pose any threat to others," said Bruce Parsons, Assistant Health Director.

If there is an active case identified among the staff, additional students who may have been exposed will be tested as a precaution.

Members of the staff who work at the Department's TB Control Program have also been very busy compiling the results of the investigation involving a central El Paso halfway house. The following information comes after extensive testing last week both at the **halfway house** and at the Health Department Clinic:

Cohort #1 Investigation (Halfway House)

Tested to Date: 137 residents
38 staff

Results to date: 155 negative
20 positive
0 pending

Positivity rate: 20/175 = 11.4%

(-MORE-)

Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL

PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
LARRY ROMERO, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA ORDAZ, DISTRICT 6
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

A total of 175 residents and staff have been tested for TB at the halfway house with 6 more still needing to be tested. There are also 36 more former residents who the department is attempting to contact in order to have them tested.

"In addition to follow-up testing for these individuals who have tested positive, the department is also attempting to cross reference these positive residents to see if they have tested positive for TB in the past. Still, the results we have so far regarding the halfway house are right around what would be expected for this particular population," Parsons said.

The Department of Public Health would like to remind the community that Tuberculosis is not uncommon in our region. Last year alone, 44 cases of TB were identified in the greater El Paso region with 55 in 2013 and 38 in 2012.

Because educating our community continues to be a priority for the department, residents with questions or concerns are urged to visit www.EPHealth.com and click on the TB Investigation section for updated information and data regarding TB, how it is spread, and to protect yourself from the disease.

The services and initiatives of the Department of Public Health support the City's strategic goal to nurture and promote a healthy, sustainable community. For more information regarding the programs and services provided by the Department of Public Health, visit www.EPHealth.com or call 2-1-1.

###

Media Contact: Ramon Herrera
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
(915) 493-4324