Health Department Confirms Case of Tuberculosis

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Media Contact:
Vermont Department of Health
Communication Office
802-863-7281

BURLINGTON – The Vermont Department of Health confirmed a case of tuberculosis in an employee at Charlotte Central School. This person had also worked at Freedom Rains Children’s Center in Colchester.

There is no ongoing risk of disease, and no special precautions to take at the school or children's center.

Health Department staff have been working closely with the school and the center to follow up with children and adults who have been in close contact with the person who was ill. Parents and area health care providers were notified this week, and provided information about TB disease, testing and evaluation. The Health Department will be conducting skin-testing clinics next week at the school and children’s center.

TB is an infectious bacterial disease that usually affects the lungs. TB can be spread through the air when a person who is ill with TB coughs or sneezes.

TB does not spread as easily as measles, whooping cough or the flu. It usually requires close contact over a longer period of time with the ill person. TB does not spread by shaking someone’s hand, sharing food or drink, kissing, or touching surfaces that an ill person has touched. There is no special cleaning required.

TB is treatable with antibiotics. The Health Department has investigated and supervised the treatment of 73 confirmed cases since 2003 – from a low of two in 2014 to eight in 2003, 2006 and 2011.

For more information about TB go to healthvermont.gov.

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