



NEWS RELEASE

May 23, 2022

POSITIVE TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – An individual at Hollenbeck Middle School in St. Charles has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB), according to the St. Charles County Department of Public Health (SCCDPH). Health officials are working with school representatives to identify students and staff who might have been exposed to the illness. Health officials will be testing close contacts on site at the school; students must have parent permission to be tested.

Health officials stress that the public should not be concerned. Those identified as close contacts are being notified and tested by the SCCDPH.

TB is a disease spread through the air from one person to another during prolonged, repeated, and close contact with an individual who is infected with active tuberculosis. People are most likely to spread it to those they spend time with every day. It is NOT spread by shaking someone's hand, sharing food or drink, touching bed linens or toilet seats.

Symptoms include a bad cough that lasts three weeks or longer, chest pain or coughing up blood or phlegm from deep inside the lungs. Weakness, fatigue, weight loss, loss of appetite, chills, fever and sweating at night can also be symptoms.

Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. A person with inactive or latent TB does not feel sick, does not have symptoms, and cannot spread it to others. Individuals who test positive for latent TB can prevent infectious disease by completing a regimen of antibiotics.

St. Charles County residents who wish to be tested for TB can do so by calling the Health Department at 636-949-7484 to make an appointment. Cost is \$20.

Learn more about TB at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

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About the St. Charles County Department of Public Health

Through the efforts of three divisions — Environmental Health and Protection, Health Services and Humane Services — the St. Charles County Department of Public Health provides a wide range of services that enhance the well-being of the community. To learn how the department assists the region or to find out about volunteer opportunities with any of the services provided, visit sccmo.org/PublicHealth or call 636-949-7400.