Health Officer Asks For Assistance from Public Due to Urgent Public Health Issue

Agustin Zeferino, a 24 year old male, has a contagious case of drug-resistant tuberculosis. Without proper treatment, Mr. Zeferino’s condition poses a serious health risk to individuals who come into close contact with him, as tuberculosis is spread through the air from one person to another.

Mr. Zeferino has received extensive information and medical consultation about his health condition. He has discontinued treatment, and his whereabouts are unknown. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

If a member of the public knows his location, they are urged to contact the local law enforcement agency immediately by calling 911. Close contact with Mr. Zeferino is not recommended.

Health Officer Dr. Charity Thoman stated, “With appropriate treatment tuberculosis can be cured. Without treatment, it is often fatal and poses a public health threat due to airborne transmission. This is particularly true for drug-resistant cases. If Mr. Zeferino is contagious and he is out in our community, it is a public health emergency.”

A key function of the Public Health Department is to monitor communicable diseases, investigate cases, monitor to assure treatment and ultimately prevent the spread of the communicable disease. Tuberculosis is one of more than 70 communicable diseases monitored by the Public Health Department.