World TB Day, 2016
Call for Community Action to “End TB”

Each year Santa Barbara County recognizes March 24th, World TB (Tuberculosis) Day as a day to raise the community's awareness about TB disease and how it can be prevented. On March 15, 2016, Supervisor Lavagnino presented a proclamation in honor of this important date at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

With this year's World TB Day theme, “End TB”, Santa Barbara County Public Health continues its work to end Tuberculosis in our community. Our work in promoting short-term therapies for latent tuberculosis (LTBI) continues. Preventing tuberculosis (TB) by treating latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) is a cornerstone of the U.S. strategy for TB elimination. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the new 12-week Isoniazid (INH) and Rifapentine (RPT) is as effective for preventing TB as other regimens and is more likely to be completed than the standard regimen of 9 months of INH daily. The new regimen is recommended as an equal alternative to the 9-month INH regimen for otherwise healthy patients aged ≥12 years that have LTBI and factors that are predictive of TB developing (e.g., recent exposure to contagious TB).

TB is treatable with medication, but untreated it can kill. Each year 9-million people become ill with TB, 1.5 million people die world-wide, and one-third of the world’s population is infected with TB. In 2015, Santa Barbara County encountered 19 cases of active tuberculosis with 665 exposed contacts identified. With local tuberculosis rates remaining steady, TB control staff continues to work collaboratively with community partners to identify and screen high-risk contacts and treat individuals with latent and active tuberculosis.

Persons with latent TB infection are encouraged to talk to their doctor about short-term latent TB treatment.

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