



Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD Director
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA Chief Financial Officer
Douglas Metz, DPM, MPH Deputy Director
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH Medical Director
Charity Dean, MD, MPH Health Officer

Provider Alert: Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Cluster in North County **July 16, 2018**

This alert is to notify providers of a cluster of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) cases in the northern region of Santa Barbara County. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department is asking medical providers to have an increased suspicion for TB in patients from North County who present with TB symptoms, including both children and adults.

Four drug-resistant active TB cases have been identified during the past five weeks. Three of the cases are INH-resistant and epidemiologically linked. One case is Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR-TB) with confirmed resistance to both INH and rifampin. All case-patients are residents of North Santa Barbara County, aged 9 months to 50 years old. Two are adults and two are children. Additional TB suspects with epidemiological links to these cases are being evaluated. Extensive contact investigations for this cluster are ongoing and involve multiple households including children.

Pediatric TB: TB in children, both pulmonary and extra-pulmonary, can present in a variety of ways: failure to thrive, poor appetite or weight loss, lethargy, lymph node swelling, cough, fever, or night sweats. The most common form of TB occurs in the lungs, but TB disease can affect other parts of the body as well (organs, bones, lymph nodes.) **Importantly, abnormal chest x-rays in children with active pulmonary TB may only show hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy.**

Reporting TB Suspects: Any person suspected of having active TB should be reported immediately to Disease Control via the CalREDIE Provider Portal. For further clinical guidance please call the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Disease Control and Prevention at (805) 681-5280.

Resources: California Tuberculosis Controllers Association Risk Assessments:

[California Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Pediatrics](#)

[California Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Adults](#)