World Stop TB Day — March 24

Worldwide 9 million active cases, 3-4 million deaths and a third of the world infected.

The Stop TB Partnership was established in 2000 to realize the goal of eliminating tuberculosis as a public health problem by calling attention to the problem, the devastation it causes, and the commitment to control it. [www.stoptbusa.org](http://www.stoptbusa.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th># of Cases - 2008</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>12,898</td>
<td>4.2 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2,696</td>
<td>7.0 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara County</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8.0 per 100,000</td>
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In Santa Barbara County, we continue to identify and investigate active TB cases among our residents and higher risk vulnerable populations. Our success of completing 100% of Directly Observed Therapy regiments, is largely a testament to our medical and community partners with their support in case and contact management. We thank you for your collaborate efforts towards ensuring improved TB Control, and successful treatment. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Diagnosing TB - IGRAs/QuantiFERON-TB In-Tube

On May 2, 2005, a new in vitro (i.e. blood draw) test, QuantiFERON®-TB Gold (QFT-G, manufactured by Cellestis), received final approval from the U.S. FDA as an aid in diagnosing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection, including both latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) and tuberculosis (TB) disease. QFT-G represents one type of IFN-g release assay (IGRA). The newer QFT In-Tube now provides enhanced stabilization in the field, and longer transport time frames for lab transport.

Recent publications continue to demonstrate significantly enhanced specificity of IGRAas (QFT-Gold/In-Tube) compared with Tuberculin Skin Tests. Specificity, .96 vs. 59% (BCG vaccinated pooled): [Pai, M. et al., Ann Intern Med 2008; 149(3):177-84](http://www.sbcphd.org/dcp/epi_unit.html). IGRAas also continue to show significant improvement in sensitivity results vs. TST, as well. New FDA/CDC guidelines based on the numerous studies to date are pending for 2009, which promises to specify a broader application for this new LTBI testing methodology.

For more information on availability of QFT testing in our local community, please contact our Public Health Lab Director, Chris Fukagawa at 681-5256. For local TB trends: [http://www.sbcphd.org/dcp/epi_unit.html](http://www.sbcphd.org/dcp/epi_unit.html)
April is STD Awareness Month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are approximately 19 million new cases of STDs each year with almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24. Santa Barbara County has experienced steady infection rates for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Disease Control Program has implemented an expedited partner treatment model called Patient Delivered Partner Therapy (PDPT). PDPT allows for physicians to prescribe, and other practitioners to dispense, antibiotic therapy for the male and female sex partners of individuals infected with *Chlamydia trachomatis* or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, even if they have not been able to perform an exam of the patient’s partner(s). Current legislation (SB 648 and AB 2280), provides an exception to the Medical Practice Act and finds that a licensee has not committed unprofessional conduct under this provision.

### Summary Guidelines

- **Patient’s diagnosis**: clinical diagnosis of *Chlamydia trachomatis* or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- **First-choice partner management strategy**: Attempt to bring partners in for complete clinical evaluation, STD testing, counseling, and treatment.
- **Most appropriate patients**: those with partners who are unable or unlikely to seek timely clinical services
- **Recommended drug regimens**
  - Patients diagnosed with chlamydia, but not gonorrhea:
    - Azithromycin (Zithromax) 1 gram (250 mg tablets x 4) orally once
  - Patients diagnosed with gonorrhea but not chlamydia:
    - Cefixime (Suprax) 400 mg orally once
  - Patients diagnosed with both gonorrhea and chlamydia:
    - Cefixime (Suprax) 400 mg orally once, PLUS:
      - Azithromycin (Zithromax) 1 gram (250 mg tablets x 4) orally once
- **Number of doses** is limited to the number of known sex partners in previous 60 days (or most recent sex partner if none in the previous 60 days).
- **Informational materials** must accompany medication and must include clear instructions, warnings, and referrals.
- **Patient counseling**: abstinence until seven days after treatment and until seven days after partners have been treated
- **Patient re-testing** for gonorrhea and chlamydia is recommended for three months after treatment.

For more information on PDPT treatment guidelines, please visit [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) or contact a Disease Control Supervising Public Health Nurse at (805) 346-8440 or (805) 681-5401. For local STD trends: [http://www.sbcphd.org/dcp/epi_unit.html](http://www.sbcphd.org/dcp/epi_unit.html)

The California STD/California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center is an integral part of a national network of training centers offering dynamic continuing education. Clinical, behavioral interventions, partner services and program support courses are designed to enhance the STD/HIV knowledge and skills of medical, health, and community professionals. Browse through our course descriptions and register on-line! [www.stdhivtraining.org](http://www.stdhivtraining.org)

The Public Health Department has released the updated Community Health Status Report addressing the leading causes of premature death in Santa Barbara County, related risk factors, and prevention steps, citing the most recent data available. Hard copies of the report are available by contacting Director of Health Education, Scott McCann, at 681-5270 or on-line at [www.sbcphd.org](http://www.sbcphd.org).