



Ventura County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2012

VENTURA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH FREMONT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TO PROTECT STUDENT HEALTH

The Ventura County Department of Public Health has identified an individual at Fremont Intermediate School in Oxnard who had contagious tuberculosis. In conjunction with the Oxnard School District, the Department is in the process of evaluating all students, staff and faculty who may have been exposed. The most common way to become infected with TB germs is by spending a lot of time with a person who has active TB in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

There is a difference between TB infection and TB disease. People with TB disease are sick from the germs that are active in their body and they may cough a lot, feel weak, have a fever, lose weight, cough up blood, or sweat a lot at night. People with TB disease are capable of giving the infection to others. People with TB infection (without disease) have the TB germ in their body, but they are not sick because the germ is inactive. They cannot spread the germ to others. About one out of ten people with TB infection become sick with TB disease. TB can be treated and cured.

Although it may be a new experience for the parents, students, and school staff involved, communicable disease investigation is a regular activity for the Ventura County Department of Public Health. The Oxnard School District is working closely with the Ventura County Department of Public Health to address this issue. The current investigation is an important step in helping prevent the spread of TB. All students and staff who test positive for infection will receive further testing and medication to ensure that they do not develop the active form of TB disease.

There will be an informational meeting, including a question and answer period, for parents and school staff on Monday, June 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fremont Intermediate School Cafeteria. The Public Health Department has established a telephone line for anyone with questions regarding tuberculosis exposure. Callers can leave their name, number and question at (805) 385-9444 and a Department representative will contact them.