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October 31, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Public Health officials report TB exposure case at Oxnard High School**

[Ventura County, Calif.] --- Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) officials have identified a case of Tuberculosis (TB) disease, at Oxnard High School (OHS). In June, public health officials also responded to a TB exposure involving a middle school in the El Rio School District. There is no evidence that the investigations at the two schools are related to each other.

A joint letter from the OUHSD and VCPH letter in English and Spanish was sent out to parents informing them of the case. VCPH will hold an informational meeting on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., to answer questions from parents, students and staff, share information about the risk of exposure to TB and discuss plans for testing. The meeting will be held in the gymnasium at OHS, which is located at 3400 W. Gonzales Road, Oxnard CA 93036. Oxnard High School serves students from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades and serves the Southwest, Northwest, and beach communities of Oxnard, as well as the Northern part of Port Hueneme.

Officials expect to test students and staff that may have had close contact with the individual that was identified with TB disease. Those identified individuals will receive a letter notifying them that they may have been exposed and that they need to be tested for TB. The testing will begin the week of November 5 and will take place at OHS. There will be no cost for the tests.

The TB Control team in the Communicable Disease office of VCPH is looking carefully at the possible contacts this patient has had in order to find out the source of this person's infection.

Although the testing is only recommended for those that come in close contact with the identified case of TB disease, these are the general recommendations for other students in general: children should be screened for tuberculosis using either the PPD skin test or one of the tuberculosis blood tests if they have had contact with a confirmed or suspected case of contagious tuberculosis; if they have X-rays or symptoms that suggest tuberculosis disease; children who come from regions of the world that have a lot of tuberculosis disease like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and countries in the former Soviet Union; and children who have visited countries with a lot of tuberculosis disease and have had a lot of contact with the resident population.

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*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) carry 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 at some time in their life. TB can be treated and cured.*

*Tuberculosis infection is very common throughout most of the world. It is relatively uncommon to acquire TB in the United States. The State Tuberculosis Control Branch estimates that 16% of foreign-born people in the United States will have a positive blood test for tuberculosis.*

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