



Health Department Update

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Cumberland County Public Health Department
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TB Investigation Update

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Health Department is continuing its investigation of a suspected TB case. A relatively small number of persons are likely to have been exposed. Three additional individuals are being tested. Exposure does not mean that they are infected. It is standard protocol by the North Carolina TB Control Program to be proactive in testing individuals who may have been in contact with a person suspected of having TB.

TB is a disease that generally develops over weeks to months and is completely curable with medications.

TB Facts:

- 1) In 2010, Cumberland County reported nine cases of active TB.
- 2) TB is a disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- 3) TB is spread through the air from one person to another.
- 4) Not everyone infected with TB becomes sick. People who are infected but who are not sick have what is called latent TB infection. People who have latent TB infection cannot spread it to others.

For additional information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/faqs/default.htm> or the state's TB control website at <http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/tb>.

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