Tuberculosis: Quick Facts for the Alabama Department of Education

ALABAMA **PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Alabama Department of Public Health, in consultation with its pediatrician and infectious disease physicians, recommends no cancellations or restrictions of any events in Perry County, Alabama. This includes no restrictions on school attendance, sporting events such as basketball, or other extracurricular activities.

TB transmission is related to close, personal, frequent exposure to a person with TB disease. **NOTE: Basketball games do not meet these criteria and are safe for players, coaches, and fans.**

People with LTBI can take preventive medicine, are not contagious to other people, and have no symptoms of illness.

As of February 5, 2016, ADPH has found three total patients with TB disease in Marion, Perry County as part of the screening process. Two patients are adults and one patient is a person less than 15 years of age. All of the patients are on medication, are not hospitalized, and are doing well. ADPH checks on these patients and gives the TB medicine to the patients. Due to taking TB medicine, these three patients are not contagious. ADPH pediatrician advises that children are not generally considered contagious with TB disease as children have difficulty coughing out TB germs.

ADPH is screening in Marion, Perry County, for two conditions: Latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease.

TB transmission occurs when a person with TB disease is in a small space with low airflow or ventilation. **NOTE: Basketball games do not meet these criteria and are safe for players, coaches, and fans.**

ADPH expects, based upon the results of screening to date, that most of the patients will have LTBI, representing an opportunity to prevent TB in these patients.

Patients with TB disease have symptoms of cough, fever, night sweats, weight loss, appetite change, or blood in their sputum (mucous.) ADPH takes immediate action with patients suspected of TB disease to prevent transmission of disease.

TB is both a treatable and preventable disease.

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