



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sept. 1, 2017

Department of Public Health

Contact: Rod Jenkins, Interim Health Director

E-mail: [rjenkins@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:rjenkins@co.cumberland.nc.us)

Phone: Sally Shutt, Public Information Director  
910-437-1921

## Confirmed TB Case Reported

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland County Department of Public Health officials are investigating a single confirmed tuberculosis case involving an employee who works in a separated section of the Detention Center. The local health department was notified on Aug. 31 about the confirmed case and is required by law to investigate. The department follows the [North Carolina TB Control Program](#) protocols in managing investigations.

Local public health officials say there is a limited number of individuals from the Detention Center who have been exposed to the disease through close and prolonged contact with the employee confirmed to have TB. County health officials have contacted these individuals and explained the need for anyone who may have been exposed to take a TB skin test.

Only individuals contacted by the Health Department need TB skin testing, which is done by placing a small amount of testing solution under the skin of the arm.

“Through our patient contact investigation, we are confident we have a relatively small list of possible contacts and no one is at immediate risk. There is no need to skin test the entire Detention Center population,” said Interim Health Director Rod Jenkins.

Anyone who has questions regarding TB testing should contact the Health Department at 910-433-3638 Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

TB usually affects the lungs and TB germs are transmitted when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

“TB generally develops over weeks to months and is completely curable if detected early and treated properly with medication,” Jenkins said. Symptoms include: productive cough lasting longer than three weeks, unexplained fever, profuse sweating at night, appetite loss, unexplained weight loss, shortness of breath, chest pain, and excessive fatigue.

A positive skin test result does not mean that a person is sick with TB or that he or she will develop TB disease. If an individual has a positive TB skin test, he or she will be referred to the Health Department’s Epidemiology Clinic for further follow-up.

**-more-**

*For additional information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at [www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment\\_form.aspx](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx). The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.*

**-end-**