



**DALLAS COUNTY**  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION DIVISION

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**DIRECTOR**

Date August 28, 2019

To parents of Berkner High School:

Dallas County Health and Human Services would like to inform you that there may have been a possible exposure to Tuberculosis at Berkner High School.

Though the risk of becoming sick with TB is very low, DCHHS and Richardson Independent School District are doing everything possible to ensure that the necessary measures and precautions are taken.

An investigation is underway to identify any staff members or students who may have been exposed to the disease.

Tuberculosis is a germ (bacteria) that is spread through the air from one person to another. TB germs are passed when a person who is sick with TB disease coughs, laughs, sings or sneezes. If someone breathes air that has TB germs, they may get infected. When TB germs enter the body the germ can go to sleep (this is called TB infection), or remain awake (this is called TB disease). If the germs are sleeping in the body, they do not make the person sick and the person cannot pass the germs to others. If the germ is awake in the body, the person is usually sick with fatigue, weight loss, chills, fever, night sweats, and loss of appetite, shortness of breath, prolonged coughing for longer than two weeks, and coughing up blood or sputum. Both TB Infection and TB Disease are treatable and curable.

People who come in contact with a person infected with TB disease must have prolonged exposure over several hours with that person in an enclosed environment for days at a time in order for the disease to infect them. Both TB infection and TB disease are treatable and curable.

As a precaution, DCHHS is offering testing to people who may have spent time in school with the infected person to ensure no further exposure to the disease has occurred.

DCHHS will notify individuals who need to be included in the testing process. If you are not part of this group, there is no need for you to take any action at this time.

After the screening, some individuals may need to be referred to DCHHS for further evaluation.

Maintaining the health of our community, which includes the students and staff at Berkner High School is a priority that we take very seriously.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Robbie Bradfield, Disease Intervention Specialist III at 972-692-4906. You can also find more information about tuberculosis by visiting [www.dallascounty.org/hhs](http://www.dallascounty.org/hhs).