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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Recognizes World Tuberculosis Day

Department of Public Health Offers Screenings, Referrals All Year Round

El Paso, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health is celebrating World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24 by reminding the public of the importance and opportunity to get screened for TB all year long!

World TB Day is annually recognized to raise public awareness about this serious infectious bacterial disease that primarily affects the lungs, which if not treated properly can be fatal.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) offers TB screenings based on a sliding fee scale and accepts insurance for those in need of a diagnosis.

Residents can contact the City's Public Health Respiratory Diseases Clinic at (915) 212-6609 for more information on screening.

TB is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The bacteria commonly attack the lungs; however, they can attack other parts of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain.

TB is spread from one person to another when an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in the bacteria and become infected.

TB in the lungs may cause symptoms such as:

- a cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer than customary
- pain in the chest
- coughing up blood or bloody sputum (phlegm from deep inside the lungs)

Other symptoms of TB are:

- weakness or fatigue
- weight loss
- no appetite
- chills
- fever
- sweating at night

For more information on the services and health screenings provided by DPH visit EPHealth.com, click on [TB Control](#) under the Services tab, or call 2-1-1.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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