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**December 7, 2017**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Health Department Investigates Possible TB Exposure**

Approximately 150 students in the Ysleta Independent School District possibly exposed

**EL PASO, Texas** – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health is currently investigating a possible Tuberculosis (TB) exposure involving approximately 150 students in the Ysleta Independent School District. The Department will be sending letters to the parents informing them that their child(ren) may have had close contact with someone with active TB. As a precaution, the Department of Public Health is recommending that these individuals be screened for TB through a blood draw that will be tested at the Department of Public Health laboratory in El Paso.

"The cooperation offered by Ysleta ISD officials has been excellent, and we will continue to work closely with school officials to make sure those specific students who have been identified at-risk are tested," said Robert Resendes, Public Health Director. "The health and well-being of our community is our utmost priority, and we ask that parents who receive the Department of Public Health letter participate in the screening process so we can determine whether or not their child is infected, and provide appropriate evaluation and treatment."

Parents who receive a letter from the Department of Public Health who have additional questions may call the City of El Paso Department of Public Health at 915-212-6609.

Media may schedule interviews for this morning between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Department of Public Health located at 5115 El Paso Drive.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial illness acquired through breathing in infected droplets from the cough or sneeze of a person with active TB. Tuberculosis is not easily transmitted. The likelihood of transmission increases with length of exposure to the cough/sneeze of someone with active TB. Additional information about TB can be found at [www.EPHealth.com](http://www.EPHealth.com) by clicking TB Control under "Programs".

The mission of the City of El Paso Department of Public Health is to provide public health related research, evaluation, education, prevention, intervention, and preparedness services. For more information on the programs and services we provide, please dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.EPHealth.com](http://www.EPHealth.com) or [www.EPSalud.com](http://www.EPSalud.com).

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