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**NEWS** RELEASE

03/24/2025

## City of El Paso Recognizes World Tuberculosis Day

## Department of Public Health Offers Screenings, Referrals Year-Round

EL PASO, Texas—In recognition of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reminding the community about the importance of year-round TB screenings and services.

World TB Day is observed annually to raise awareness about this serious, infectious bacterial disease that primarily affects the lungs and can be fatal if left untreated.

DPH offers TB screenings on a sliding fee scale and accepts insurance, ensuring access to testing and care for all residents. Individuals seeking a screening or more information can contact the Public Health Respiratory Diseases Clinic at (915) 212-6609.

Tuberculosis is caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis. While it most commonly affects the lungs, it can also impact other parts of the body such as the kidneys, spine, and brain.

TB is spread through the air when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in the bacteria and become infected.

Common symptoms of pulmonary TB include:

- A cough lasting three weeks or longer
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood or phlegm from deep in the lungs

Other general TB symptoms include:

- Fatigue or weakness
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Chills
- Fever
- Night sweats

For more information about TB services and other health screenings, visit EPHealth.com and click on "TB Control" under the Services tab, or call 2-1-1.

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