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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH
LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT HEALTH**

San Bernardino. An individual who had contagious tuberculosis (TB), and is a member of the Chaffey College and City of Montclair communities, has been identified by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. In conjunction with College officials and City staff, the Department is in the process of evaluating all students, faculty and employees who may have been exposed. The most common way to become infected with TB germs is by spending a lot of time with a person who has active TB in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

There is a difference between TB infection and TB disease. People with TB disease are sick from the germs that are *active* in their body and they may cough a lot, feel weak, have a fever, lose weight, cough up blood, or sweat a lot at night. People with TB disease are capable of giving the infection to others. People with TB infection (without disease) have the TB germ in their body, but they are not sick because the germ is *inactive*. They cannot spread the germ to others. About one out of ten people with TB infection become sick with TB disease. TB can be treated and cured.

Although it may be a new experience for those involved, communicable disease investigation is a regular activity for Public Health. Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Public Health Officer, noted that “this classic example of tuberculosis case investigation is an important step in helping prevent the spread of TB.” All students and staff who test positive for infection will receive further testing and medication to ensure they do not develop the active form of TB disease.

An informational meeting has already been conducted at the Montclair City Hall. An additional meeting will take place at the Chaffey College Rancho Campus.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has established a telephone information line between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., for anyone with questions regarding TB exposure at (909) 383-3287. To learn more about TB, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/tb/faqs.

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