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MEDIA ALERT

Follow-up tuberculosis testing today at Indio High School

About 120 Indio High School students and some staff are being tested for a second time for tuberculosis Tuesday as part of a routine follow-up to the original screening, according to Riverside County health officials.

The students scheduled to take part in the on-campus testing showed no signs of the tuberculosis when they were screened in December, and the latest action is to insure they remained free of illness, said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, public health officer.

“It can take from two to 10 weeks after an exposure before a skin test might show a positive result,” said Kaiser, explaining why the second round of testing is done.

The original screening took place after a student tested positive for active tuberculosis late last year. Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria that usually attack the lungs, but it can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. It is not spread by shaking someone’s hand, sharing food or drink, touching bed linens or toilet seats, sharing toothbrushes or kissing.