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Dec. 19, 2013

TB tests expanded at Indio High School News conference scheduled today at noon in Palm Desert

Tuberculosis tests have been expanded to the entire student body and staff at Indio High School after results of an initial screening were higher than expected.

On Monday, 131 students were tested for the illness after a student was diagnosed with active tuberculosis recently. The tests were reviewed on Thursday and 45 students tested positive for possible exposure to the illness. Someone who is exposed does not necessarily have active tuberculosis, a condition that must be confirmed with more tests.

On Thursday, follow up X-rays identified five students who require further examination. Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser ordered the testing expanded to the entire student body and staff. Kaiser emphasized that the risk of infection remains low, but that the action is being taken strictly out of precaution.

Public health officials will hold a news conference today (Dec. 19) at noon in room 119 at the offices of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. The office is located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert.

Health and school officials have scheduled a testing clinic for approximately 1,800 students and staff tomorrow at Indio High School. Details will be announced at the press conference or later in the day. For more information, call Jose Arballo Jr. senior public information specialist for the Riverside County Health Department, at (951) 712-3705.