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Student at Vista Murrieta High School tests positive for tuberculosis

A Vista Murrieta High School student has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis and Riverside County health officials are working with education representatives to contact those who might have been exposed to the illness.

The student has not been in school since last week and will not return to school until a medical clearance is issued. The student, who is not being identified due to confidentiality requirements, is being treated and is expected to make a full recovery.

The County of Riverside Department of Public Health is working with school officials to identify students and staff who may have been exposed. Those students and staff who are identified as being at risk will receive an email notice and phone call from the school within the next few days. There will also be a written notice mailed to those individuals from the health department. As a precautionary measure the health department is recommending that anyone who receives the notice be screened with a TB skin test at a clinic being planned at the school.

Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser emphasized the risk of transmission is very low.

“While the risk of infection is slight, it is important that those who are notified take the time to get tested,” Kaiser said. “It will provide peace of mind for those who are concerned about being exposed or begin the next step in the evaluation process.”

Vista Murrieta High School Principal Mick Wager notified all parents at the school by phone call today.

“The health and well-being of our students and staff is my top priority. We appreciate the support of officials at the County of Riverside Department of Public Health and are following their protocol for identifying and testing students and staff who may have been exposed.”