



February 1, 2019

Dear Emerald Parent or Guardian:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has identified an individual with tuberculosis (TB) at Emerald High School. DHEC's investigation is active and on-going.

Identified tuberculosis at Emerald High School does not necessarily mean that your child has been exposed to the TB germ. *Only individuals identified as having been in close contact with a person with active TB disease need to be tested. TB is a lung infection that can be spread through the air by a person with active TB disease. TB can be treated with antibiotics.*

DHEC is working closely with Emerald's administration to conduct a contact investigation of the school and its facilities. The contact investigation includes evaluating the school layout and routine activities of the individual to determine the level of risk for classrooms, lunchrooms and other areas where students and staff congregate.

Testing everyone in a school is rarely recommended. Based on information gained during the site assessment, individuals have been identified as having an exposure to the TB germ. Those needing testing will receive an additional letter today detailing TB testing that will be performed by DHEC. As the contact investigation progresses over the next few weeks, others may be recommended for testing. Only those recommended for testing will be tested by DHEC at each stage of the contact investigation.

All students and families have the option of having any testing performed by their own physician at their own cost. In the event you elect to have your own physician perform testing, DHEC requests that your physician report the test results to DHEC.

DHEC and your school thank you for your partnership during this on-going and developing situation. We respect your role and responsibility as parents/guardians and

will do our best to ensure you are getting available information about the contact investigation in a timely manner.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Careline at 1-855-4SC-DHEC (1-855-472-3432). Careline staff will be available Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> until 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until noon; and Monday through Friday of next week from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. to answer your questions. For more information on TB, please visit the CDC TB website at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/> and DHEC's TB web site at [www.scdhec.gov/tb](http://www.scdhec.gov/tb).

School Signatory

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