



April 2, 2019

Dear faculty, parents and guardians:

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has identified an adult with tuberculosis (TB) disease in Greenwood District 50. *TB is a lung infection spread through the air by a person with active TB disease. TB can be treated with antibiotics.*

Even though a person has been identified with TB, that does not mean you or your child has been exposed. DHEC is working closely with the district to conduct a contact investigation of the identified schools. This includes evaluating the routine activities of the individual with TB to determine the level of risk for others as well as to determine who needs to be tested. Testing everyone is rarely recommended. *Only those who have been in prolonged close contact with the person need to be tested.*

**Testing for students is not recommended at this time.**

Individuals who need to be tested have been notified. DHEC performs the test at no cost. A blood test or tuberculin skin test (TST) is used to test for TB. A chest X-ray may be needed for a complete evaluation. Although DHEC will test only those identified as needing testing, you may pay to have testing performed by your own physician. If your physician does test, DHEC requests that your physician report these results to DHEC.

As the investigation progresses over the next few weeks, new information might require others, including students, to be considered for testing. If so, DHEC will send out additional information.

Thank you for your partnership during this developing situation. If you have questions, contact the Careline at 1-855-4SC-DHEC (1-855-472-3432). Staff will be available until 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 2. Regular hours will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. For more information on TB, visit [cdc.gov/tb](http://cdc.gov/tb) and [www.scdhec.gov/tb](http://www.scdhec.gov/tb).

Tracy D. Murphy, MD  
Medical Director and Tuberculosis Clinician  
Upstate Region