



For Immediate Release

Feb. 12, 2016

Labrador-Grenfell Health Confirms Tuberculosis Case

Happy Valley-Goose Bay: Labrador-Grenfell Health announced today that a single diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) has been confirmed in a former patient of the Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital in St. Anthony. The individual was admitted to the facility on Dec. 31, 2015 and died on Feb. 10, 2016. Following laboratory testing, the diagnosis was confirmed on Feb. 11, 2016. This diagnosis is not related to recent cases of TB in Labrador.

Labrador-Grenfell Health is currently in the process of performing contact tracing. Contact tracing is done to identify those who may have had close contact with the patient so that public health officials can follow-up with them directly to arrange for TB testing. Close contacts are individuals who have had regular, prolonged contact with a person who tests positive for TB.

“Individuals who are identified as close contacts, including family members and health care providers, are being notified by Labrador-Grenfell Health public health nurses and employee health nurses directly so that the testing process can begin,” said Dr. David Allison, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Newfoundland and Labrador. “If you are not contacted, you are not considered to be a close contact and will not require testing.”

Patients, staff and visitors are advised that the risk of contracting TB is considered to be low. Tuberculosis is a disease caused by bacteria known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Following a significant exposure to the bacteria, a person may develop dormant or latent TB which is not infectious. A small proportion of people exposed may develop active TB which can infect the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body, including the kidneys or spine.

The disease-causing bacteria is spread in the air, through coughing, laughing, sneezing, singing or talking. Symptoms may include a cough that lasts for two weeks or more, chest pain, loss of appetite, fever, feeling weak and night sweats. Treatment to cure TB normally involves taking medication for a period six to 12 months.

Further information about Tuberculosis is available online at www.lghealth.ca.

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